

Salisbury rocked by bombs

HOME NEWS

No police prosecutions in 26 cell death complaints, DPP says

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, told MPs yesterday that between 1970 and 1979 inclusive there were 26 cases after a complaint in which allegations were made that police action had resulted in death. In none of those cases had there been a prosecution.

Sir Thomas, who was giving evidence to the Select Committee on Home Affairs, said that the same criteria were applied whether to a private person or a person in a position of trust like a police officer. The first hurdle was whether a reasonable jury was likely to convict. Then, and only then, was the second hurdle faced: whether it was in the public interest to prosecute.

"We take into account the circumstances of the individual and the witnesses," he added. "If we had a death in police custody and the first hurdle was crossed I cannot conceive of any circumstances where the second hurdle would not be crossed."

Each of the 26 cases fell at the first hurdle. Originally the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Havers, O.C., refused to consent to Sir Thomas appearing before the committee, and he gave written evidence with Sir Michael's authority.

Asked by the committee to reconsider the decision, Sir Michael was granted two undertakings: that Sir Thomas's appearance would not be regarded as a precedent and that he would not be asked questions about individual cases.

Asked yesterday if he took into account the fact that a prosecution would bring a particular police force into dis-

repute, Sir Thomas replied: "On the contrary, I would have thought that in any case of this gravity if the evidence was there we ought to prosecute."

The DPP's office kept its success rate under review, he said. The case must be considered before it went to an inquest. "It could be that an inquest and we have thought that we would not prosecute, we would reconsider our decision."

Mr Arthur Davidson, Labour MP for Accrington, put to Sir Thomas that he had the power, if he was not satisfied with information supplied by the police, to ask for further statements to be taken and more people to be interviewed. Did he have to do that more often in cases where police officers were involved?

Sir Thomas said that in his experience investigation done by police was extremely thorough.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, asked Sir Thomas why he was not in a position to issue a statement when he decided not to prosecute. Sir Thomas replied: "We have obviously to consider with great care whether it is right to give detailed reasons, not only in cases involving police but others as well."

It would be wrong, first because statements taken by the police from witnesses were confidential documents. Secondly, it might also mean disclosing whether the DPP believed some of the witnesses, perhaps because of their record, or because there was a conflict as a result of which he might have to disclose details about the defendant.

The result would be a trial of the defendant in public.

Hadfields 'death on picket line' warning

From Nicholas Timmins

Sheffield

Workers at Hadfields, the private steel company in Sheffield, yesterday decided to join the steel strike after a day of large-scale picketing at the company's East Hecla works that saw 22 arrests among the 1,200 pickets and a policeman taken to hospital.

Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, said the decision meant that intimidation had won a total victory after what he described as "an appalling scene outside the gates early yesterday."

He said there was a threat to human life from the scale and nature of the picketing, and he sent a telegram to Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, to urge him to legislate "yesterday not tomorrow" and to warn him that before long "someone is going to get killed outside these gates."

The decision by the 280 Iron and Steel Trades Confederation members at the company's beleaguered East Hecla works came in the afternoon, after the 120 members at the company's Leeds Road plant decided in the morning to rejoin the strike.

The decision came after the worst trouble so far outside the plant, where 23 pickets had been arrested this week.

One thousand pickets, including 350 miners with Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, at the head, marched on the gates shortly after 5 am, blocking the road. Five were arrested.

Scargill denied Mr Scargill last night described as "nonsense" claims that steel workers had been intimidated by the mass



Part of the 700-man police barrier formed outside Hadfields to cope with 1,200 pickets early yesterday.

picket at the Hadfields plant. There was a display of mass union solidarity, the *Sheffield Evening Telegraph* reported. Sheerness pickets, flying the flag of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, were joined by a large number of miners.

Both pickets were treated in hospital, one for a leg injury and the other for a cut head, before being released. They had been part of a small con-

tingent of flying pickets on duty at the docks while up to 100 other pickets blockaded the private premises nearby of the Sheerness Steel company, whose workers have defied the strike call.

Iron and Steel Trades Confederation members at Sheerness Steel said they were unconcerned by reports that the decision of Hadfields workers in Sheffield to rejoin the strike could release more flying pickets to concentrate on Sheerness.

A spokesman for the con-

federation in London said that the executive council was meeting on Monday and it was unlikely that there would be any new decision on the Sheerness picket until then.

Expulsion threat: Steel workers who are defying the strike call at privately owned plants in the North-west have had a warning that if they continue to work they may be expelled from their union. (R. W. Sheppard writes from Manchester)

At the centre of the contro-

versary are 500 men who have gone back to work this week at two steel plants in Manchester and on Merseyside belonging to the Norwegian-owned Manchester Steel.

The company signed a 23 per cent pay deal with its manual workers at the end of last year.

Bristol arrest: A striking steelworker was arrested in Bristol yesterday after scuffles between more than 30 flying pickets and police outside Woodberry Chilcote, a firm of private steel stockpilers.

Steel dispute means BSC must make more cuts

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

The national steel strike, now in its seventh week, is likely to accelerate further change in the shape and scope of the British Steel Corporation, which will be faced with the need to conserve cash in every area of its activities.

Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, issued that warning yesterday during a visit to Teesside, when he defended the action taken by the corporation's board in its attitude towards pay and the need for wide-ranging cutbacks.

"Strike or no strike, British Steel is in the throes of major change," he said. "The change is being accelerated by the dangerous commercial situation in which its markets are shrinking, the pound constantly strengthening, and its cost rising faster than the prices it can charge."

If the board had not faced this change, with all its implications, it would have been faced with continuing, endless heavy losses, "the permanent pensioner who in the end is trundled off to the geriatric ward for a painless end."

The corporation could be forced, as a result of the strike, to conserve cash in every area of its activities. Decentralisation would have to be taken further.

Workers at one of Britain's main private-sector steelmakers yesterday issued a statement, saying, in a secret ballot, against their union's instruction to continue striking and expressed the wish to return to work. Management of the GKN Brynmawr plant, in North Wales, conducted the ballot after consultation with the local Iron and Steel Trades Confederation works committee as workers collected their wages yesterday.

Labour backs strike to fight 'jobs disaster'

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The Labour Party in Wales yesterday made clear that it would back strike action by trade unions in an effort to avert the "jobs disaster" it claims would affect the area if the British Steel Corporation implemented cutback proposals.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the scale of the disaster which would overwhelm Wales if production is halved at Llanwern and Port Talbot, with a job loss of 11,337, according to the party.

That would put 19 pits at risk and push unemployment in Wales up from 80,000 to 130,000

or 13 per cent of the insured population, the party says.

Mr Hubert Morgan, the party divisional organizer, denied it was seeking to bring the Government down. "But if necessary, people have a right to defend themselves against the consequences of these mad policies."

His party calculates that keeping the steelworks in full production would save the taxpayer from having to foot a yearly bill of £250m in unemployment benefits and a similar initial outlay in redundancy money.

Mr Jon Vaughan Jones, the party's research officer,

defended the charge that militant action might deter potential investors. "If these proposals go through, the effect would be to destroy the area's future. A couple of industrialists may turn away, but they will be replaced by others."

Industrialists in Wales, while acknowledging that the situation is grave, say the Labour Party exaggerates. Mr Ian Kestell, director of the Confederation of British Industry in Wales, says that the job losses should not exceed 30,000. He has accused the TUC of its estimates of causing alarm and despondency among working people.

Chief constables' evidence on picketing for Commons

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Chief constables are to be invited to give evidence on picketing and demonstrations before the all-party Commons select committee on employment, it was learnt last night.

The decision to invite them comes at a time when there is mounting pressure on the Government to take rigorous action on union reform. The Cabinet this week patched up its differences over proposals for a first-stage limitation of unions' legal immunities, and a consultative document on the issue will be published next week.

Conservative backbench feeling on pickets was further demonstrated in the Commons yesterday when Mr John Blackburn (Dudley, West), asked the Prime Minister to convey to the chief of police on duty at the Hadfield private steel works at Sheffield "our support and sympathy for those officers who have been seriously injured in the lawlessness that has taken place."

No benefits for 75% on strike

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

More than three-quarters of the striking steel workers have received no social security benefits, according to figures released by the Department of Health and Social Security. But benefits paid to the strikers for their families total as much as was paid during all strikes last year.

Of 150,000 steel workers on strike, only 35,645 had received benefit for their families up to Tuesday. The average amount paid was £22.16. In addition, 365 single strikers have shared £8,000 in the past six weeks.

The total of benefits paid for dependants during the strike reached £3,049,300 this week. Last year about £3m was paid during strikes.

The small proportion of steel strikers receiving benefit results from the rules on supplementary benefit which debar from benefit all single strikers except those who can prove extreme hardship; all married women; and all married men whose wives earn more than the family's benefit level plus £4.

The Engineering Employers Federation last year published a study showing that the main sources of income for strikers were pay in hand, savings and wives' earnings. And a study by Mr John Gennard, lecturer in industrial relations at the London School of Economics, showed that social security amounted to 15 per cent of the income of most strikers.

Senior MPs seek abortion Bill compromise

By Our Political Correspondent

Five senior members of the House of Commons last night appealed to fellow MPs to come to a compromise agreement on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which resumes its report stage in the House today.

The MPs are Mr Jo Grimond, the former Liberal leader, Mr Edward du Cann, former Conservative Party chairman and now 1922 Committee chairman, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Conservative MP for Herefordshire, East, Mr Frederick Mulley, Labour MP for Sheffield, Park, and Mr Arthur Bottomley, a former Labour Cabinet minister.

They say they believe that wide agreement now exists for a reduction of the period when

Debate on rural post offices

By Our Political Editor

The Government is expected to announce next Tuesday how it proposes to give effect to Sir Derek Rayner's proposals for reducing the frequency and varying the method of payment of security benefits, which has been widely taken as a threat to the viability of rural sub-postoffices.

The Labour Opposition has chosen to debate the issue and its hope will be to embarrass the Government by attracting Conservative backbench support. More than 100 MPs, including many Conservatives, have signed a number of early day motions protesting at any

an abortion can be allowed to 24 weeks.

Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute, said earlier this week that he would be prepared to support a compromise of 22 weeks. But he thought that 24 weeks was "too late" and the foetus might be viable at that stage, especially if a doctor's diagnosis was a weak one.

Many MPs hope that in return for agreement on the compromise the sponsors of the Bill would be willing to withdraw other sections of the measure. As MPs left the House last night many seemed unaware of the appeal, and it could be that the group of five have left it too late for their words to have much effect on today's proceedings.

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Imports costing many jobs, Mr Benn says

By Our Political Staff

A flood of imports, especially of cars and steel, much from the EEC, was costing tens of thousands of jobs, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Labour MP for Bristol, South-east, said yesterday.

He told members of Chorley Labour Party at Adlington in British exports being lost because North Sea oil was making the pound so expensive that our products were losing their competitive edge.

"Nine months of Tory rule have been a disaster for Britain and unless the Government is forced back by public pressure or forced out by public opinion this country will be so badly damaged that it could take 10 years to put it on its feet again," he said.

PLP nominations for party inquiry

Nominations of the six representatives from the Parliamentary Labour Party to be co-opted to the three special panels of the commission of inquiry into the future organization of the party were approved by Labour MPs last night. Each panel is to have one MP from the Shadow Cabinet and one from the back benches.

The will be: Mr. Denis Healey, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, Mr. David Gorman, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr. John Gorton, the former Secretary of State for Wales.

'Royal' holiday proposed

Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, has tabled a House of Commons motion calling on the Government to take the initiative for a national holiday marking Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday on August 4.

He said that Tuesday, July 15, when the Queen Mother drives to St Paul's Cathedral for a special service of thanksgiving, would be ideal. "I am sure everyone would love an excuse to forget our problems."

Union formed for catering and hotel workers

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

A new union was launched yesterday with the aim of recruiting 750,000 workers to the hotel and catering industry who do not belong to a union.

It will come under the umbrella of the General and Municipal Workers Union and is named the Hotel and Catering Workers' Union. It will try to build on the 30,000 workers already members of the GMWU.

Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the GMWU, said yesterday: "The hotel and catering industry is an industry of enormous importance for the country; it is a profitable industry, but it is an industry whose importance is not recognized in rewards to its employees."

While tariffs at London hotels had risen by 84 per cent since 1975, hotel workers pay had risen by just over 40 per cent.

Sortie by Mrs Thatcher

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will make a rare outing today to the edge of the West Country, Bristol, after the discovery by British Gas more reserves at its field at March farm in Dorset and the possibility of a new find in a similar structure in the English Channel.

Last year production of land oil reserves was 120,000 tonnes, insignificant when compared with the 76 million tonnes produced offshore. The cost of onshore production, however, are so much smaller than offshore production that much smaller accumulations are worth developing. In the United States wells producing less than

Rises of up to £40 a week for NUM leaders

By Our Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday awarded themselves pay increases of up to £43 a week in the wake of the 20 per cent settlement in the coal industry.

The deal gives Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Mr Lawrence Daly, the general secretary, about £15,000 a year, on a par with colliery managers, to whose salary levels their wages are now linked.

The pay of colliery union leaders, such as Mr Arthur Scargill of Yorkshire, and Mr Michael McGahey, of Scotland, are expected to rise to about £13,000 a year, and the minimum for area agent is to go up to £8,000 a year.

The minimum rate for coal-face workers is just over £100 a week, but average earnings are substantially higher, rising in some cases to £150, through productivity bonuses.

The daily rate for expenses for NUM leaders is to rise by £5 to £25.

New licences to seek oil on land

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Seven licences for the search for oil and gas reserves in the heart of the English countryside have been awarded by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy.

They have been granted to RTZ Oil and Gas, to a consortium led by British Petroleum and to Amoco UK and they cover parts of Wiltshire, Humberside, the South Midlands and Southern England, including an area between Hastings and the private Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

Weather forecast and recordings

By Our Weather Editor

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded. Wind direction and speed in mph. Rainfall in mm. Clouds in eighths.

Today Sun rises: 7.16 am. Sun sets: 5.14 pm. Moon rises: 6.38 am. Moon sets: 4.17 pm.

New moon: Tomorrow. Lighting up: 5.44 pm to 6.44 am. High water: London Bridge, 12.38 am, 6.7m; 1.7 pm, 7.0m. Avonmouth, 6.21 am, 13.0m; 6.46 pm, 13.2m. Dover, 9.57 am, 6.4m; 10.26 pm, 6.6m. Hull, 1.9 am, 6.9m; 5.34 pm, 7.2m. Liverpool, 10.22 am, 9.3m; 10.49 pm, 9.2m. 1ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808ft.

A weak trough of low pressure will be slow moving over SE Britain. A ridge of high pressure is crossing the N and W.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, Midlands, SE and central S England: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain in places, clearing slowly; wind SW, moderate becoming variable; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

W Midlands, E and central N England, Channell Islands: Mainly dry, rather cloudy in places at first, bright or sunny periods developing; wind variable, becoming

W to SW, moderate; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F). Lake District, NE, NW, and SW England, Wales, and NE Scotland: Mainly dry, bright or sunny periods; wind SW, moderate; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, central Highlands, SW and NE Scotland: Mainly dry, bright or sunny periods; wind W, moderate; max temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Mainly dry with sunny intervals, probably cloudier later with evening rain in W; wind SW to S, moderate, perhaps fresh; max temp 8° or 9°C (46° to 48°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Isolated showers, sunny intervals; wind W, moderate to fresh; max temp 6° or 7°C (43° to 45°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mainly ales, lots of sun; sunny intervals after overnight patches; N and W cloudier, with occasional rain or drizzle; Mild. Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel

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Overseas selling prices: Australia 61.50; Belgium 36.30; Brazil 10.00; Canada 1.00; Denmark 1.00; France 1.00; Germany 1.00; Greece 1.00; Hong Kong 1.00; India 1.00; Italy 1.00; Japan 1.00; Korea 1.00; Malaysia 1.00; Mexico 1.00; Netherlands 1.00; New Zealand 1.00; Norway 1.00; Portugal 1.00; Singapore 1.00; South Africa 1.00; Spain 1.00; Sweden 1.00; Switzerland 1.00; Taiwan 1.00; Thailand 1.00; United Kingdom 1.00; USA 1.00; West Germany 1.00; Yugoslavia 1.00; Zaire 1.00.

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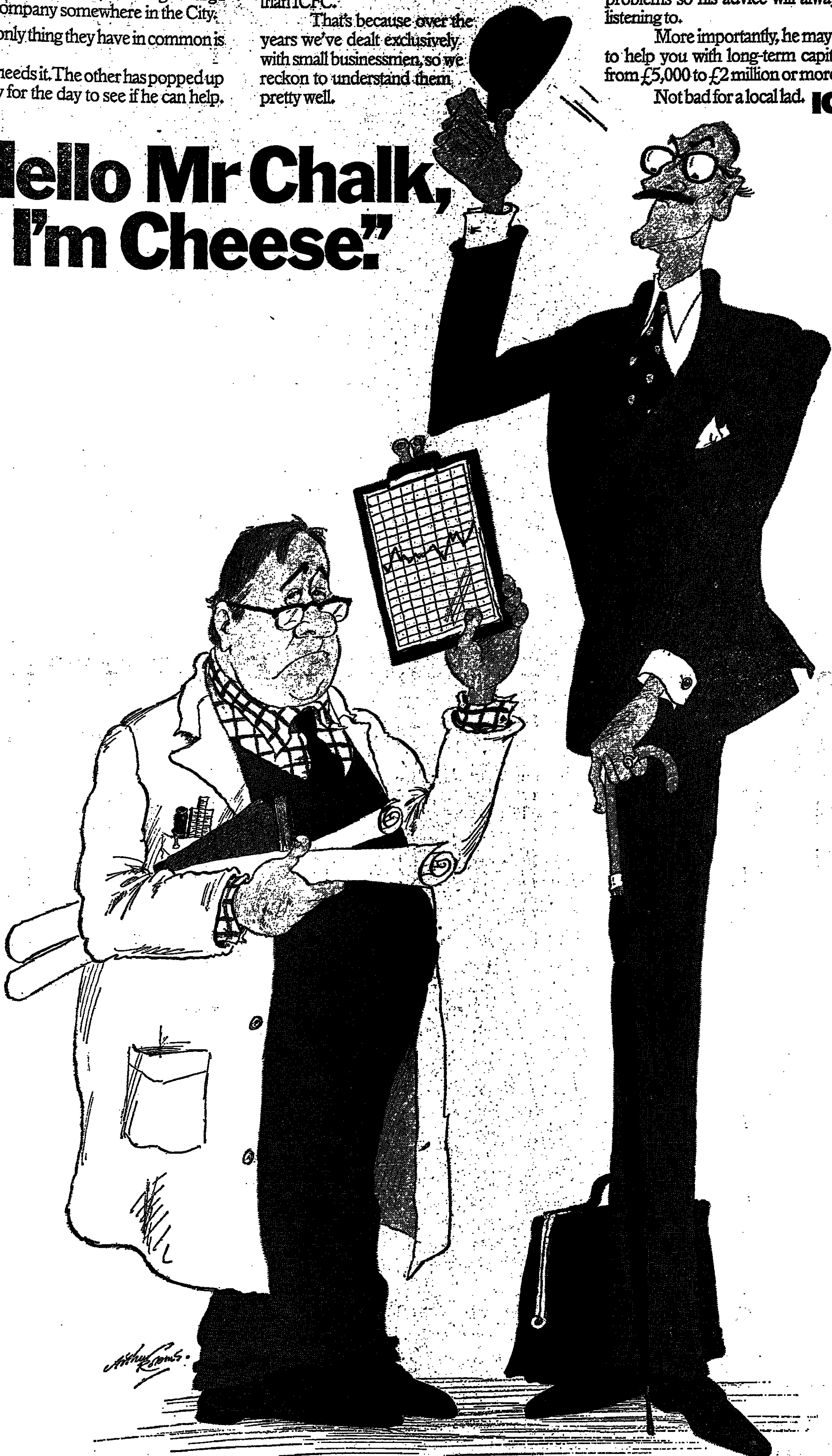
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"Hello Mr Chalk, I'm Cheese."



HOME NEWS

Parents give 'Dr Who' a bitter pill to swallow

By Kenneth Gosling

Violence and cruelty in television programmes are still worrying parents, according to a survey carried out for TV Times. They were less worried, however, about the portrayal of sex and only 8 per cent of 500 mothers who were questioned gave it as a reason for concern.

Parents seemed reluctant to ban particular programmes. Of those they felt should be taken off, the BBC's *Dr Who* came at the top of the list, but was mentioned by only 6 per cent of people questioned.

European Marketing Surveys found that nearly all the mothers they spoke to said their children watched television every day; 67 per cent agreed that it was a useful way of holding their children's attention.

Just under half the children between five and eight years old watched right up to their bedtimes and 34 per cent in the same group were allowed to watch later at weekends.

As for the programmes their offspring enjoyed most, 82 per cent of mothers singled out *The Muppet Show*. *Blue Peter* was also rated highly.

Among the programmes mothers disapproved of were a number screened after the 9 pm "watershed" when television companies allow shows of a more adult nature to be screened.

These included *The Professionals*, *Quatermass and the Pit*, *Star Trek* and *Hutch*; but adventure series before 9 pm like *Chips*, *Charlie's Angels* and *Hawaii Five-O* were more acceptable.

Plans for pay television service expected within a few days

By David Hewson

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce plans for a pay television service within the next few days.

Three of Britain's largest television rental companies, Rediffusion, British Relay and Radio Rentals, are at an advanced stage in planning applications to operate a service that could start next year.

Initially the service would consist of evening showings of recent films, and would be confined to areas served by a cable television network. This now covers only 14 per cent of British television viewers, who would pay about £4 to £5 a month for the service.

If the initial projects were

successful the cable networks could be extended and production facilities could be provided specifically to make programmes for the system, it was predicted yesterday by Mr Nicolas Mellersh, the head of Rediffusion's pay television development unit.

It is expected that the Home Office will write to the BBC, the Independent Broadcasting Authority, cinema and local television companies and local authorities during the next few days setting out its plans for the service.

Mr Whitelaw may also outline the Government's proposals during the second reading of the Broadcasting Bill on Monday.

The idea is being greeted

with enthusiasm within the BBC, not because it would like to operate parts of the service, but because it is keen to sell its popular programmes to independent contractors.

The independent television companies' cable television committee has yet to decide on whether it would make or sell programmes for the system.

Rediffusion is engaged on market research in Hull, where it has 30,000 homes on a cable system.

Other possible areas for a pay service are Swindon, Greenwich and Sheffield, London, Birmingham and Manchester do not have a cable service and could be connected to a system only at considerable expense.

Salt marsh reclamation cost 'not justified'

By Our Planning Reporter

There was no economic case for the reclamation of about 200 acres of salt marsh at Geddis Drove End, on the south-west shore of the Wash, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Giving evidence on behalf of the Nature Conservancy, Mr John Bowers, a senior lecturer in economics at Leeds University, said that even if the extra agricultural land could be created at no cost, and with no detriment to the environment, he would have serious reservations on whether it would be worth while.

Mr Bowers contended that the crops likely to be grown on the land either were already, or were likely to be, in surplus within the EEC. Taking into account Britain's contributions to the common agricultural policy, the cost of reclamation could not be justified in terms of a saving on imports.

General rejects hard response to defeat terrorists

'Extreme steps' in Ulster ruled out

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Lawson, GOC, and director of military operations, Northern Ireland, yesterday rejected extreme military measures against terrorism.

In his first public speech since his appointment last month, he made clear that he would not respond to those who wanted him to "go in hard and flush out those terrorists whatever the cost" or who said that "what we want are bodies, what we want are skulls, and we do not care how you get them".

He told a Chamber of Commerce lunch: "I am not in that business, I have not come here to destroy Ulster. Nor have I any intention of leading my soldiers to defeat. For such a wild and totally impracticable course of action is not only a guaranteed recipe for disaster, it is also a sure-fire way to give the terrorist his victory on a plate."

Sir Richard acknowledged that terrorism would be a problem for the province for some time. But he believed the trend was down-



Sir Richard Lawson: "I am not here to destroy Ulster."

pose as a Robin Hood or William Tell. Daily, he was being pushed further out towards the fringes of society.

"As he looks to the future the terrorist has only one hope left, and that is that we will make the mistake from which he can benefit, and his actions are now geared towards provoking us to overreact to his advantage. It is very much like judo; using your opponents' muscles to achieve a win."

Sir Richard was at pains to emphasize the level of cooperation existing between the police and the Army. He and the Chief Constable, Mr John Hermon, "think as one" and had mutual trust.

He insisted that this was the time for a cool head and sustained courage. "I am confident that with good police and Army work we shall bring the killers and the bombers to book."

The Army had no plans to withdraw. There would be changes in the pattern of deployment, but the changes would be made with the aim of sharpening the operations and in consultation with the police.

As a result of the growing strength and professionalism of the police and the continuing presence of the Army the terrorist had publicly conceded that a military victory was not within his grasp.

The terrorist could no longer

Diver may check wreck for remaining poison canisters

By a Staff Reporter

A diver may be sent down to inspect the wreck of the *Acolian Sky* to see how many canisters of chemicals remain in the ship, the Department of Trade said yesterday.

Canisters from the ship, which sank 12 miles east of Portland Bill on November 4, have been washed up on the

south coast. Some contain arsenic trichloride, the fumes of which are highly dangerous. A further 64 were picked up by fishermen on Isle of Wight beaches yesterday and analysed.

The results of tests on the three dead whales found on the south coast this week will be available on Tuesday. Asbestos danger: Police and

health officials were yesterday seeking someone who has been dumping deadly blue asbestos beside busy main road (Our Colchester Correspondent writes).

More than four tons, in orange bags marked "danger" was left in and around the village of Navestock, near Brentwood, Essex.

A police official said: "This material, which can cause permanent damage to health, has been turning up over the past two weeks."

"We're pretty sure it has all been cleared but we are concerned that more bags might be dumped. We are warning children in particular not to touch any suspect bags."

Footballer to pay £2,400 to opponent he fouled

From Our Correspondent Bristol

An amateur footballer was counting the cost yesterday of a foul tackle that landed him in court. Derek Shilton, aged 25, was ordered to pay £2,400 damages to a man he put in hospital during a local league "derby".

The High Court in Bristol found that Mr Shilton, of Park Lane, Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol, had deliberately set out to foul an opponent. He tackled Mr Paul Manning after a corner and left him "screaming with pain on the ground," Judge Fallon, QC, decided.

The referee of the game, between Frampton Athletic FC and Stapleton FC, Mr Stephen White, said that he thought Mr Shilton, a defender for Frampton, had gone for the man rather than the ball. He sent Shilton off and Mr Manning was taken to hospital where he needed a cartilage operation on his left knee.

Mr Manning, aged 26, a car-

penter, of Stapleton, Bristol, said that he could no longer work on roofs after the injury, in March, 1978. He was being paid £5 a week less because he could not do the same job as other carpenters or climb up ladders.

Mr Shilton, who married last Saturday, said he had gone for the ball but made a late tackle. Mr White said that he was off for his own safety, as he was surrounded by spectators and players milled around, and not because of the foul.

After the hearing Mr Shilton said he did not know how he was going to pay the damages: "There is no way I am going to play soccer again after this," he said. "I cannot afford to take the risk."

"I have had many injuries in football myself, but I do not take people to court for it. If everyone who fouled a player was taken to court, it would be a pretty mess."

Mr Manning refused to comment.

Stricter contract sought for marriage with children

A stricter wedding contract for adults who decide to have children is urged today in a book commissioned by the Government. Two types of marriages should be considered, a looser agreement for childless couples and a more binding one for those intending to have a family, Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle, director of the National Children's Bureau, says.

In the book, *The Needs of Children*, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security, she says that the necessity to bring children up in a secure and stimulating environment is being increasingly neglected.

The views of women's rights groups and the preoccupation with material possessions is often devaluing the family unit, she says.

"Should there be two different forms of marriage?" she asks. "One would involve only a simple contract, designed to protect the interests of both partners in case of a breakdown, which could be terminated readily at the request of either."

"The other contract would involve a much more binding commitment of at least 10 or 15 years, because the couple were wishing to raise a family and were prepared to put the needs of their children above their own individual self-interest."

"This contract would be much more difficult to terminate."

Dr Kellmer Pringle said yesterday that she believed a scheme of that kind would prevent the trend towards "serial marriages" which are common in the United States and becoming increasingly common here.

"Today's children are the seed corn of the future. How we treat them will determine the quality of life for tomorrow. The denigration of parenting and the devaluing of children has now reached quite the horrific proportions."

She would like also to see introduced a curb on people below the age of 18 or 20 from having children.

£100m EEC loan offer for nuclear station

From Our Own Correspondent Edinburgh

The European Community is offering loan facilities of £100m to the South of Scotland Electricity Board as contribution to the cost of building the nuclear power station at Torness Point, East Lothian.

The loan will be the first financial approval for the United Kingdom under the Euratom loan scheme and is in line with the commission's policy of reducing EEC dependence on imported oil by developing alternative sources of energy.

At a summit meeting last June the heads of state and government of the nine Community countries agreed that nuclear energy in the coming decades no economic growth would be possible. Nuclear programmes must therefore be given strong, fresh impetus. At the same time the Euratom loan fund was increased from £350m to £1,000m.

Objectors fail in action against Fife gas plant

From Our Own Correspondent Edinburgh

Objectors to the £500m gas processing plant being built by Shell-Eso in Fife, Scotland, have lost a court action to prevent the development. In a judgment delivered yesterday in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Lord Emslie rejected the claim by the Aberdeen and Dalgety Bay Action Group that Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, had acted wrongly in granting planning permission.

Site work has started at Mossburn and on preparation for the marine terminal at Braefoot Bay, on the Forth estuary.

The company hopes the plant will be operating by the end of 1982, taking gas from the Brent Field.

The protest group plan to oppose the project at every stage of construction and operation and a petition to the European Court of Human Rights is being considered.

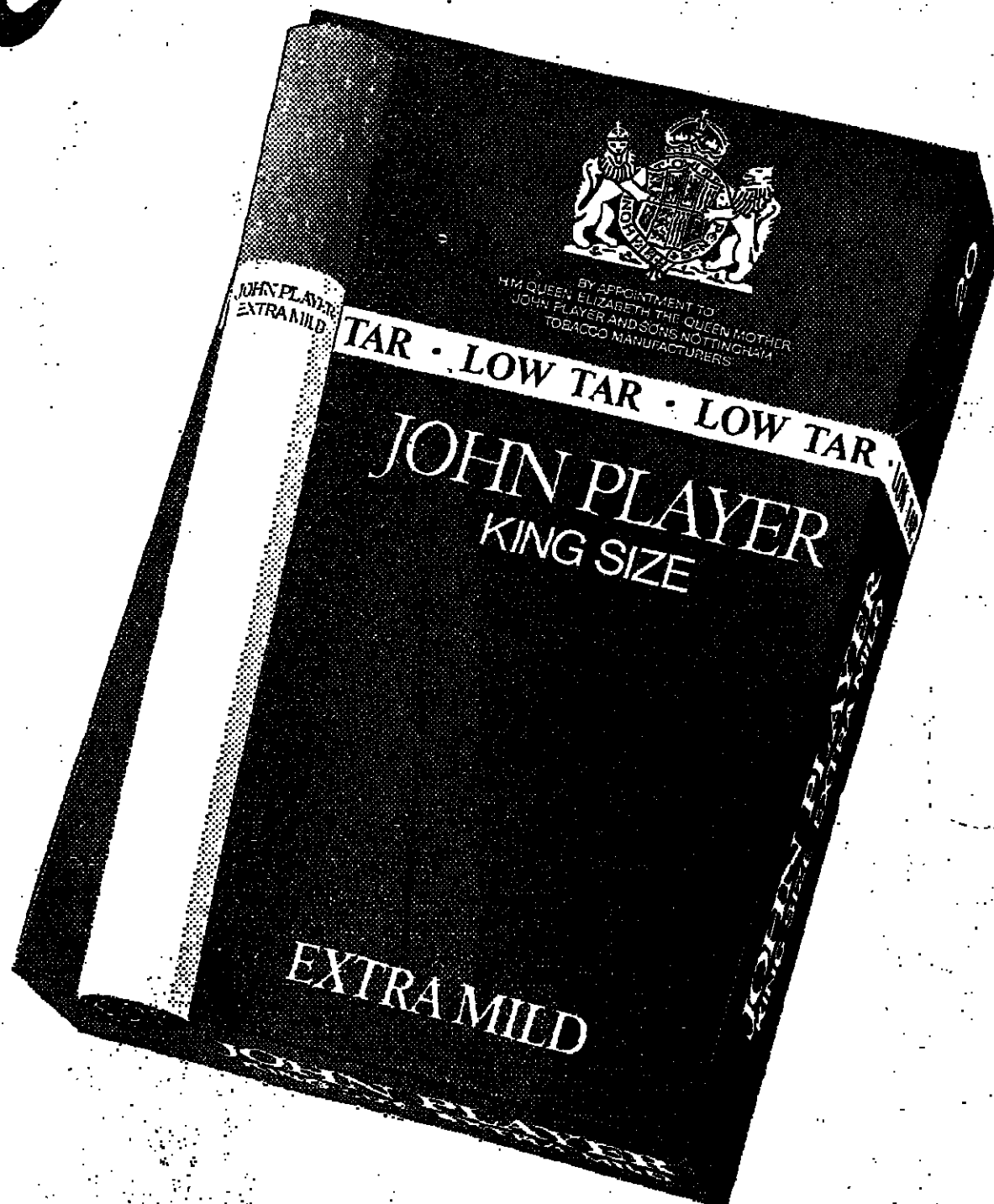
Sealink strike called off

Sealink ships' officers at

Harwich yesterday called off a strike due to have started at 7 am. The 180 officers, members of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, had voted to strike in a dispute over pay differentials with ratings.

They called off the action after meeting docks management yesterday. A Sealink official said: "The ships are sailing and there is now no dispute." Sealink had said the strike would threaten some commercial sailings to Zeebrugge and Dunkirk.

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HOME NEWS

Increase in London parking fines is urged

By Christopher Warner
Local Government
Correspondent

The fixed penalty fine for illegal parking in London should be increased from £6 to £10, but offenders should be given a discount for paying promptly, a report on the enforcement of parking restrictions states.

It also urges increased pay for traffic wardens so that enough can be recruited, and says that more prosecutions should be heard at suburban courts.

The report, to the Greater London Council, is by a working party set up jointly by the Home Secretary and a Minister of Transport after complaints from the GLC that its traffic management policies were being undermined by lack of enforcement.

The report says that traffic congestion in London is getting worse. Average speeds have fallen from 14 mph to 12 mph during the morning peak in central London in the past five years.

Advocating a discount for prompt payment of fines, the report says that of 1,500,000 tickets issued in 1978, fewer than 10 per cent were paid within 28 days. Discount for early payment should reduce the number of cases in which the cost of money is spent rather than the vehicle.

There are about 1,150 traffic wardens in London, compared with the 2,500 needed,

12 years for Dutchmen in Scotland's worst case under drugs Act

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Three Dutchmen were jailed for 12 years each yesterday after they were found guilty at the High Court in Edinburgh of being concerned in the unlawful production of the drug, methyl amphetamine.

Jan Stuurman, aged 28, Dick Ruiter, aged 40, and Albert Merks, aged 34, were also found guilty of being concerned in the production of the drug. The Court, West Linton, Peebles-shire, and at an address in Monikie, Angus.

After a 14-day trial the jury took an hour and 20 minutes to return their unanimous verdicts of guilty.

The judge, Lord Allanbridge, had ordered that Mrs Reinette Stuurman, aged 21, who faced a charge of being concerned in the production of the drug, should be discharged because there was not enough evidence against her.

Passing sentence, the judge described the offences as probably the most serious under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, to come before the Scottish courts. He told the three men: "I entirely agree with the forensic reports which indicate your complete operation had been studied in detail, carefully researched and meticulously planned." Such criminal activities would not be tolerated in Scotland.

He commended the police who took part in what became known as "operation Muller".

A dawn raid on Cleves Cottage and the Monikie address culminated in the arrest of the three men after months of police observation.

From the time suspicions were aroused, the judge said, the handling of investigations by every single police officer concerned merited the highest praise. Any false move would have alerted the criminals, but in the event the net of "operation Muller" was closed at exactly the right time.

During the trial the court was told how a modern bungalow in Monikie became "the suburban front" to a European drugs organisation. The organisation was funded mainly from Holland and its objective was to make methyl amphetamine for the European market. Mr Stuurman was described as the "chemist". Mr Ruiter, his assistant, passed himself off as handyman, gardener and chauffeur, and Mr Merks was described as the "European supervisor and courier" of the operation.

Sophisticated equipment: White-walled Cleves Cottage at West Linton, described by police as a chemical Aladdin's cave, was the centre of Mr Stuurman's plan to set up a production line that could have turned out amphetamines with a value of up to £70m (the Press Association reports).

It contained sophisticated equipment and enough chemicals to produce 60 million tablets of methyl amphetamine, known as "speed".

Whitelaw pledge of more aid for immigrants

By Our Home Affairs
Correspondent

More money is to be provided for language teaching for immigrants to help them to settle in Britain, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said last night.

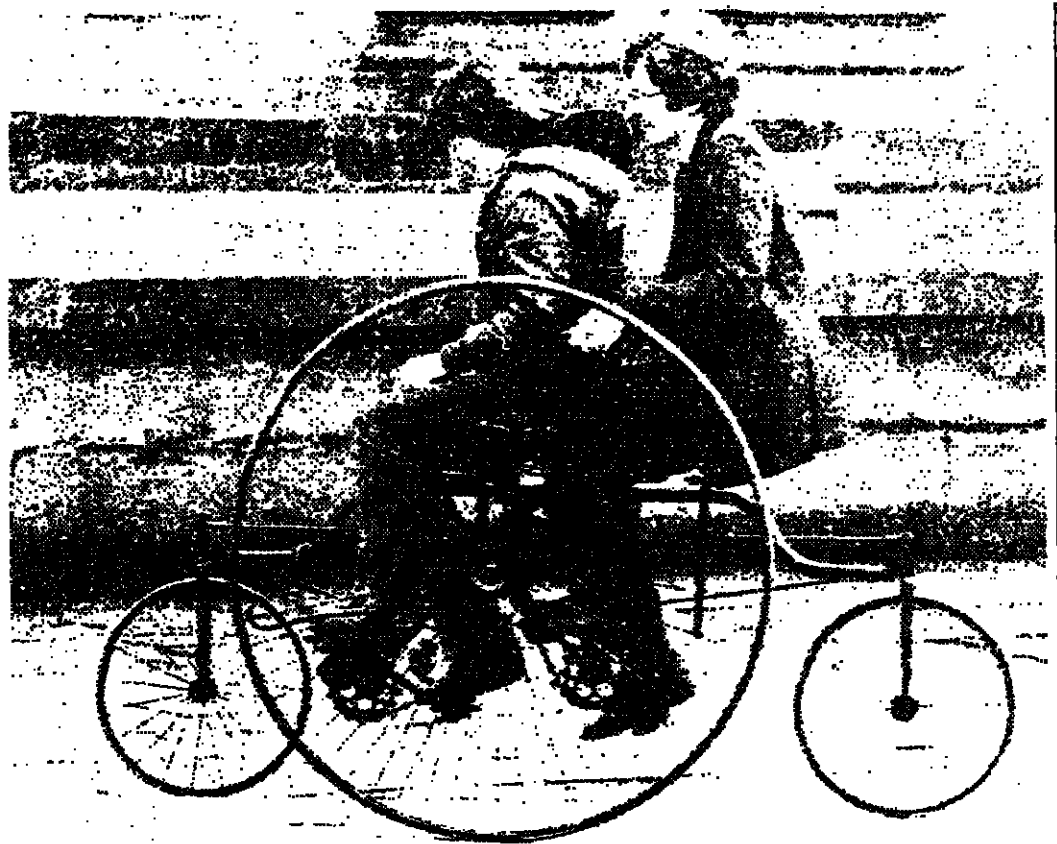
Funds from the Manpower Services Commission for industrial language training are to be increased and £30m will go this year in grants to local authorities to meet Commonwealth immigrants' special needs. Most of it will go towards education.

Mr Whitelaw was accentuating the positive in a sensitive political role. He was guest of honour at a dinner party organized by the Union of Muslim Organizations of the United Kingdom and Eire to celebrate the Prophet's birthday.

The Home Secretary commented: "I hope that we shall before long be able to put behind us the arguments about immigration and the changes in the immigration rules."

He added tactfully that he wanted to focus rather on people in minorities living in Britain.

He concluded: "Parliament and government has made and will continue to make changes to enable members of the ethnic minorities to have equal opportunities. By the same token, those who have decided to come and settle here will accept, as I am sure so many do, that they, too, will need to adjust and strike roots in our society."



Dr Graham Nicholson (right), curator of the Castle Museum, York, trying out his latest acquisition, an 1878 Rudge tandem tricycle.

Few complaints about package holidays

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

Nearly two thirds of those who took package holidays in the 12 months to October last year were "very satisfied". That is the outcome of a survey carried out by National Opinion Polls for the Office of Fair Trading.

A quarter of the 700 respondents were "quite satisfied" with their holidays and only 3 per cent said they were "not at all satisfied".

Most complaints were about serious delays in travelling, the food, hotel facilities, changed holiday arrangements and overbooking of hotels. Nearly one eighth of the holidaymakers

did not know whether they had been covered by holiday insurance.

The Association of British Travel Agents said: "The survey highlights difficulties we are already aware of the worst of which is the air traffic controllers' disputes, causing delays to holiday flights."

NF opponents prepare to unite in counter-march

By David Nicholson-Lord

Other opponents of the National Front are likely to fall into line with yesterday's decision by the Anti-Nazi League to change the date of a counter-demonstration against the front in south London.

The league's decision came after Wednesday's disclosure by the NF that it would be staging an "anti-mugging" march starting at Camberwell on March 2, not February 24 as originally announced. NF leaders said that was a "ruse" designed to show publicly that the violence associated with its marches was sought by left-wing opponents.

The Anti-Nazi League, together with the Southwark Campaign against Racism and Fascism (Scarfa) and the Labour Party Young Socialists, had planned to counter-march on

February 24. Mr Jerry Fitzpatrick, the league's national organizer, yesterday denied that it was playing into the hands of the NF by changing the date. "We are clearly aware of the intention behind the front's announcement, but their propaganda machine is trying to represent the opposite of the truth", he said. "Our *raison d'être* is to oppose peacefully any manifestation of the National Front and its violence in the public arena."

Scarfa is meeting tonight to discuss the front's announcement. Mr Fitzpatrick said campaign members had indicated that the meeting would support postponing the planned counter-demonstration. Approval for a counter-march in the Southwark area would be sought from Scotland Yard.

Court power over property after divorce proposed

By Our Legal Correspondent

A court should have the power to order the sale of property after a divorce, a report by the Law Commission proposes.

A court has extensive powers to redistribute capital assets after divorce, usually proceedings on judicial separation. But it has no express powers to order property to be sold, although that result can be achieved in a more circuitous way.

The commission's recommendation is designed to simplify and rationalize the court's powers, rather than to confer new benefits on parties to a divorce.

Report on orders for sale of property under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (Law Commission 93, Stationery Office, £1.75).

Press Council backs theatre

The Press Council yesterday upheld a complaint that the London Evening News gave the National Theatre inadequate time to investigate and comment on damaging and groundless allegations about extravagant spending before it published them.

However, it rejected the theatre's complaint that the newspaper gave insufficient prominence to a rebuttal.

Prison officers on assault charges

Three prison officers at Peterhead top security prison were accused at Peterhead Sheriff Court yesterday of assaulting prisoners. Pleas of not guilty were tendered by a solicitor in their absence.

The men, McKenzie Brebner, aged 32, Alan Ross, aged 31, and Cyril Wallace, aged 34, were committed to appear in Peterhead on June 5.

Princess 'much better'

Princess Margaret, who has had a virus infection, was "up and about and feeling much better", it was said at Clarence House yesterday.

'Body in quarry' hearing

From Our Correspondent
Wigan

Magistrates at Chorley, Lancashire, yesterday fixed committal proceedings for May 19 in respect of 11 people facing charges arising from the death of Mr Christopher Martin of Mr Johnstone, aged 27, a New Zealander, whose headless body was found in a flooded quarry at Eccleston, near Chorley, in October.

The accused are charged with the conspiracy to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act and five of them are also accused of Mr Johnstone's murder and conspiracy to murder him.

In brief

Proposals sent to Princes

Valentine cards poured into Buckingham Palace yesterday for the Prince of Wales and Prince Andrew. The Palace said those to Prince Charles contained "a substantial number of marriage proposals".

The number of Valentine cards Prince Andrew has received is statistically distorted because many girls have taken the opportunity of also wishing him happy birthday. He will be 20 on Tuesday.

Action over cruise

The Greek owners of La Perla, the Cypriot-flag cruise ship being held at Liverpool pending the outcome of litigation over an ill-starred Christmas cruise which included a hamburger lunch on Christmas Day, said in Athens yesterday that they were taking legal action against the British charterers.

'Rebellion' ruling soon

Mr Justice Woolf, in the High Court, will rule next week on whether Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, overstepped his powers by disbanding Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham area health authority, in London, which had refused to make spending cuts.

Lifeboat 'joyride'

A labourer, Alexander Anthony, aged 30, of Tooting Bec, London, was jailed for a year at Lewes Crown Court yesterday after admitting taking a £2,400 lifeboat from Brighton marina for a "joyride" in the Channel.

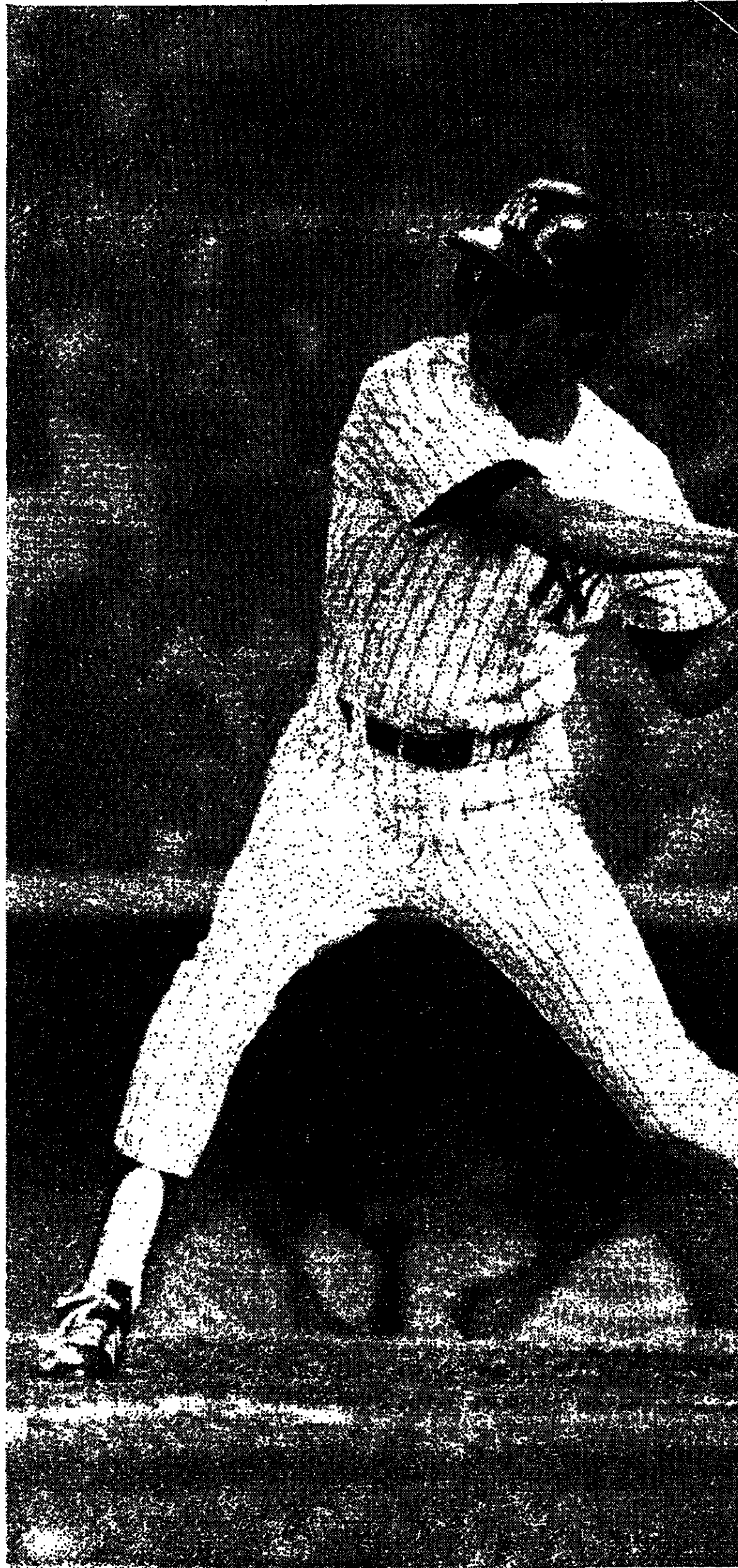
14% rate increase

Hillingdon Council, in London, last night announced a 14 per cent increase in the domestic rate to 90.2p in the pound. The new general rate will be 108.7p.

Comedian fit again

Mr Frankie Howerd, the comedian, left the Fitzroy Muffield Hospital, London, yesterday. He had broken his pelvis in a fall.

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For the last sixteen years, Hanson Trust has pursued one simple philosophy: for a company to succeed, especially a British company abroad, it needs excellent management. Our commitment to first class management is relentless, and nowhere has this paid off more for Hanson Trust than in our pursuit of success in the USA.

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Our simple philosophy has had no harder test than in the USA. We entered the American market in 1973, in one of the toughest periods since the thirties and against a mounting tide of business opinion.

Subsequent events proved us right and our investment in Seacoast Products Inc., our first base for further investment, proved to be extremely successful. Last year Seacoast caught a billion menhaden fish, processing them profitably into edible oils and high protein fish meal for poultry feed.

A TRIPLE PLAY...

The success of Seacoast encouraged Hanson Trust to cast around for other areas of investment in the USA.

In 1975, we acquired Carisbrook Industries Inc., a year later Hygrade Food Products Corporation and, in 1977, the national food service company, Interstate United Corporation.

Hygrade, with its \$600 million a year sales, is best known to Americans for the Ball Park frankfurter which is rated as the second largest selling brand of frankfurter in the States and has achieved a faster sales growth than any competing brand. Interstate, one of America's foremost food service companies, now provides over three million meals a day coast to coast.

WINNING ON THE ROAD AND AT HOME...

Essential criteria had to be met for our investments in America: proven performance of the management team and the nature and record of its business. We searched for companies with good management in basic industries. We gave the existing American management the freedom to manage itself, apart from rigid financial control exercised by our central financial team.

The companies continue to be run by Americans for the American market, and it works for Hanson Trust. US sales are in excess of \$1 billion a year and the contribution to corporate profits was over £16 million in 1979.

Success "on the road" in the USA, while being a different ball game, is only half the story. Hanson Trust also has a continuing story of success at home. For the full picture, please send for our Annual Report to Hanson Trust, FREEPOST, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or phone (01) 589 7070.

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HOME NEWS

Security checks made on Labour movement activities, group states

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Security and intelligence services spend considerable time and resources checking on the activities of the Labour movement, a Labour Party study group alleged yesterday.

In a pamphlet, *Has Big Brother got a file on you?*, which is being sent to all constituency parties and to trade unions, members are being asked to set up subcommittees to collect evidence of surveillance by the Security Service (MI5) and the Special Branch.

It is claimed to be the first time when the whole party and union movement is being asked to help in the formulation of party policy.

The reports from the constituencies will go to the special group under the chairmanship of Miss Jo Richardson, MP for Barking and a member of the national executive committee, which will draw up a report to be submitted to the party conference next year, recommending changes in the law to make the security services more accountable to Parliament and to force the disclosure of more information from official sources about their activities.

The pamphlet states that the security and intelligence services regard internal "subversives" as being just as much of a threat, and an equally legitimate target, as foreign spies or invaders. Yet there was no crime of "subversion" on the Statute Book.

In 1963 a subversive was officially defined by Lord Denning as a person who "would contemplate the overthrow of government by unlawful means".

That, says the pamphlet, is a fairly clear definition. But present and previous Home Secretaries had adopted a different definition. Subversive acts, to them, were activities which threaten the safety or well-being of the state and are intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means.

"This definition," the group states, "is so unclear that it can give continued licence for spying, surveillance and record-keeping by the state over legitimate political activities."

Dealing with the forms of surveillance to be reported on, the more specialist methods include telephone tapping, the opening of mail and the placing of eavesdropping equipment in offices and homes.

"By far the most extensive surveillance is the semi-clas-

sedine photographing of speakers and participants at political meetings, marches and demonstrations", the pamphlet alleges.

"In addition," it is claimed, "both the Special Branch and MI5 recruit informers and, on occasions, plant infiltrators."

Information obtained by surveillance may be used generally to report on, and if need be to disrupt or otherwise control, the activities of Labour, leftist and trade union activities, the group states.

Miss Richardson said at a press conference called to launch the pamphlet that it was extremely difficult for MPs to get information about the security services, their expenditure, manpower, structure and efficiency. She gave out copies of questions which she had not been allowed to table in the House of Commons.

"These show quite clearly the powers of civil servants in the Table Office of the House of Commons to block MPs," she said, although she added that they were doing their duty by acting on past precedents.

Questions ruled inadmissible were to various ministers, asking how many personnel are employed in the Defence Intelligence Staff; where can estimates of public expenditure on the Defence Intelligence Staff, DIS and D16, be located; what new reporting procedures for the Secret Services have been introduced in the past six months; what steps is the Prime Minister taking to restore full political control over the Secret Services; and is an internal inquiry now taking place into the Bluff case.

Mr Duncan Campbell, the journalist who was a defendant in the ABC trial, and who reported on the extent of telephone tapping in recent articles in the *New Statesman*, is a member of the group. He said that the specific prohibition on the tapping of MPs' telephones which Sir Harold Wilson introduced had been so weakened that it was now not very effective. Political aides employed by members of the last Labour government were under surveillance at one time or another.

Many members of the party involved in trade union disputes of a perfectly legitimate character had had their telephones tapped.

Mr Campbell claimed that from his inquiries he judged that 10 or so MPs had been under surveillance; that number excluded the many occasions when MPs might have been in touch with other people who were being tapped.

British Council fears huge job loss after cuts

By John O'Leary

of The Higher Education Supplement

Ministers have ordered a further cut of £3.9m in the budget of the British Council after an inter-departmental review of the council's work. The savings, to be made over three years, will be announced in a White Paper.

The council had estimated that cuts of 15 per cent in its budget for 1980-81 would cost more than 500 jobs in Britain and abroad. With the total reduction over four years totalling 20 per cent, it fears that half the council staff in the United Kingdom and a third of those overseas may be made redundant.

More cuts may result from a review of the work of the Overseas Development Administration, which provides more than half the council's funds. No indication has been given of the ODA's contribution beyond 1981.

The board of the British Council, which met yesterday, is to ask the Government to reconsider the latest cuts. It says going beyond the past 11.5 per cent cut would irreparably damage its work and threaten Britain's vital overseas interests.

An additional concern to the Council is that the £3.9m reduction has been set at 1979 prices and will represent considerably more in real terms because of its spread over three years.

A spokesman for the council said that the latest cuts would probably mean a complete withdrawal from 12 countries and the closure of offices in some larger countries where more than one exists. Up to 25 more countries might be affected by staff withdrawals.

Single system of exams for 16-plus children

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The Government has decided to move towards a more unified system of examining for pupils at the age of 16, but O level standards will be retained. However, it is unlikely that there will be any changes for several years, certainly not before 1985.

The Government said yesterday that it had completed its consultations with the interested parties on the future of the Certificate of Secondary Education and O level examinations, and would give the details of its decision on Tuesday.

A single system of grading will be introduced for examinations at 16 plus, so that, for example, there will no longer be confusion over how to relate, say, a grade E at O level to a comparable CSE grade.

The only direct comparison made now, and that is much questioned, is to equate a grade 1 CSE with a grade C at O level.

Teachers give priority to action on oversize classes

By Our Education Correspondent

A motion reaffirming the National Union of Teachers' commitment to take industrial action on "oversize" classes from next September has been voted top priority for discussion at the union's annual conference in April.

One third of primary pupils, amounting to nearly 1,500,000

Coroners concerned over selection procedures

Home Office may seek change in the law on inquest juries

By Marcel Berthias

Legal Correspondent

The Home Office is considering proposing changes to the law on inquest juries after the anomalies and shortcomings that were revealed by the cases of Blair Peach and James Kelly.

Inquests into the deaths of the two men are to be held in the spring, in both cases with a jury. The way those juries are to be picked is causing concern to coroners and the Home Office, who are anxious that in those well publicised cases there should be no possibility of the juries being criticized as biased.

However, there are virtually no legal provisions governing their selection. Unlike juries in criminal trials, which are chosen according to a procedure designed to achieve randomness, coroners' juries are subject only to a law of 1887 which says that they must be "good and lawful men" (since extended to women).

Nothing is laid down about how they should be picked, or about allowing jurors to be challenged. Apart from a law saying that no one should serve

on a coroners' jury more than three times a year, there is only a Home Office circular urging that more women should be chosen and suggesting that jurors should not all come from one narrow area.

In practice it is up to the coroner to pick the jury in whatever way he wishes. Up to a few years ago, it was not uncommon for a coroner's officer to have a list of more or less "regular" jurors on whom he could rely.

It was even known for trials to be made in public houses to get enough jurors, or for the coroner's relatives, neighbours or friends to be called on.

It is fair to say that nowadays most coroners' officers use the electoral register to try to achieve a genuine random selection. Unfortunately, in the context of the Peach and Kelly cases, many coroners' officers are former policemen or connected with the police, and according to some critics, might not be considered the most appropriate people to pick jurors required to deal with cases in which the conduct of the police is at issue.

The fact that there is no legal provision for challenging coroners' juries adds to that difficulty.

About 5 per cent of inquests take place with a jury. The main circumstances are: where the death was by murder or manslaughter; where it occurred in a prison or in police custody; where there are specific statutes requiring a jury (for example, deaths in rail and air accidents and industrial poisoning); and where the death "occurred in circumstances the continuance of which is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public".

That last criterion was applied by the Court of Appeal in deciding to order a jury in the Blair Peach case. Coroners are worried that other deaths not previously considered to require a jury might now come under wide interpretation given by Lord Denning.

Many coroners believe that it is time for the law to be changed so that their juries come broadly into line with ordinary juries, and are picked, paid and challenged in the same way.

Greek tanker beaten by Shetland port ban

From Our Correspondent

Lerwick

The Shetland Islands council yesterday won its battle to prevent the Greek tanker, *Alhalla*, from entering the Sullom Voe oil terminal.

The council announced that the vessel's charterers, Murphy Eastern Oil Corporation of America, had agreed to cancel the vessel will not try to enter the tanker's nomination, and the terminal.

On February 15th the *Alhalla* was seen and photographed by council marine staff at the head of a mile-long oil slick off

Shetland. Although the vessel's master denied causing pollution, the council's sports staff believed they had sufficient evidence to justify the oil industry carrying out promises made last year that it would refuse to load any vessel found causing pollution.

Although oil industry representatives at Sullom Voe recommended cancelling the nomination, the charterers refused to do so and the tanker's owners, Celestial Maritime Corporation of New York, are understood to have threatened legal action if the nomination was cancelled.



New Ambassador: Dr Jurgen Rühfus, the West German Ambassador (right), leaving his embassy in Belgrave Square yesterday to present his credentials to the Queen. Mr K. W. H. du Boulay, Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, is with him.

British dairy farmers told they are not best

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

The common view that British dairy farming is the most efficient in Europe was challenged yesterday at a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture. Professor Bowman, director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, said that a combination of high yields and extensive use of forage did not make farming here the best.

"We must not make the assumption that we necessarily have the best part of the Commons for producing milk," he said. "We are by no means the most efficient. The United Kingdom dairy industry is in the top half of the league table in Europe."

He told the committee in written evidence that "on average dairy farms in the Netherlands and Belgium achieve higher productivity than do United Kingdom farms. However, they compare favourably with the Danish and achieve much higher productivity levels than French, German and Italian farms."

The nine members of the committee spent the morning grappling with the EEC dairy surplus after visiting dairy farms in Berkshire. Mr Douglas Hogg, Conservative MP for Grantham, wondered whether the surplus could be cut by reducing the use of expensive, imported protein feed on dairy farms. That might lower yields without reducing farmers' profits.

"We were rather impressed by the profit that Irish farmers get from their production," Mr Hogg said. British milk yields per cow are more than half as great again as those in the Irish Republic.

Committee members debated whether a cut in EEC milk prices would reduce yields. Professor Victor Bynon, from Exeter University, said a cut might not affect the smallest farms, whose owners often worked in factories while their wives looked after the farms.

Professor Bowman suggested that "the effect of a squeeze on these smaller farms would probably be to buy a few more cows".

Assay office sit-in after 'panic' dismissal of staff

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

The 36 "Guardians of the Standard of Wrought Plat in Birmingham" those who run the city's assay office, were accused yesterday of "panic and hysteria" in proposing to dismiss 60 of their staff. The office was established as a corporation by Act of Parliament in 1772.

It was said that there had been a reduction of 40 per cent in goods coming in for hallmarking since gold and silver prices rose steeply last month.

A nucleus of 100 of the 220 craftsmen and craftswomen, of whom six are over the age of 70, began a continuous night and day sit-in at their machines, which hallmark gold and silver with the office's anchor mark.

The National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades, to which they belong, provided them with refreshment and reading matter to support their protest.

Mr Hilary Eccles-Williams, chairman of the guardians, said there had to be a reduction of jobs. It was no fault of the office that international crises had forced up the price of gold. If the dispute continued, it could lead to manufacturers sending their goods to other offices for hallmarking. "That could mean the end of the Birmingham Assay Office."

Mr Bryn Waters, district secretary of the union, said: "We believe that the 60 proposed redundancies are a panic measure. It is bound up with a lot of hysteria by the guardians. There has been no similar reaction in other assay offices in London and Sheffield."

Henry VIII ship salvage delayed

Work on raising the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's warship from the seabed off Portsmouth has been postponed from next year until 1982. The ship capsized in a battle with the French in 1545.

Archaeologists say they need another summer to remove the artifacts in the hull.

Taxi driver stabbed

Mr Paul Carroll, a taxi driver, of Basford, Nottingham was stabbed in the chest at Nottingham with serious injuries yesterday after a passenger who refused to pay his fare stabbed him in the back. Police were seeking a man in his middle twenties.

Kidnap charge remand

Colin MacIvor, a Dublin managing director accused of kidnapping the wife of Sir Arthur Sugden, chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society was further remanded in custody by a Stockport magistrates yesterday.

WEST EUROPE



Led by still-walkers and a Tricolour-draped animal, French sheep farmers protest in Paris.

Sheep men bleat angrily in Paris

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 14

Kiki, a French sheep, draped in the Tricolour, led the demonstration of 1,000 sheep farmers from all parts of the country through the streets of Paris this morning. A large animal from the Ile de France, Kiki was escorted by farmers from the Landes on their traditional soles.

His sheep and rang small bells. The demonstrators, headed as the picturesque cortege, two to three miles long, wound its way from the Place de la Bastille to the Place de la République, where the sheep farmers were holding their annual general assembly this afternoon.

Parisians, who watched with curiosity and amusement could be in no doubt as to who the enemy was. The farmers' banners and placards read: "Out with the British", "British go home", and "British accomplices of the New Zealanders".

At the entrance to the hall, where St Pierre Mithusier, the Minister for Agriculture, was expected, one large streamer proclaimed: "French sheep farmers want to live", and another read, "Let us save our sheep".

The National Federation of

Sheep Farmers, which organized the demonstration, asked the Minister to defend firmly his position: "If our frontiers are opened, all French sheep farmers will disappear. They did not want subsidies. We want no premiums, no charity. We want to live from our own work," he said.

Their objections to the Minister are superfluous. He has no intention of yielding to British threats or the strictures of the European Court of Justice.

He said today: "We shall defend sheep farmers as we protect the sheep. We are in favour of a common agricultural policy, not of a free trade area. If the British want a free trade area there will be no solution to the problem, and it will become political."

M. Maignan insisted that agricultural prices would have to increase this year by 7 to 8 per cent if the income of French farmers were to be maintained. "How can one be satisfied with the increases by the EEC Commission (2.4 per cent on average) where production costs in agriculture are going to rise by 10 to 11 per cent?" he asked.

The French Government's position is that it will not move on Britain's EEC budget problem without getting British concessions on agricultural prices and of British sheep meat exports.

M. Jean-Baptiste Doumenge, a "red multi-millionaire" member of the Communist Party for half a century, was even tougher on the radio yesterday. M. Doumenge is founder and president of *l'Ingras*, the largest food export-import company in France, specializing in trade with the Soviet bloc.

Britain was responsible for the malfunctioning of the common agricultural policy, he said. At the same time as one limited EEC-buster production, one allowed the British to import 200,000 tons of New Zealand butter, when all that was required was a French veto in Brussels to stop them.

"Either France should leave the EEC, or Britain should be booted out of it," he said.

Nine offered ingenious compromise budget

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 14

The EEC Commission today presented the European Parliament a budget draft for the 1980 budget, to replace the original proposals by the Council of Ministers rejected by the Parliament in December.

The reworked draft is an ingenious attempt to strike a compromise between the penny-pinching attitudes of EEC members and the demands of the Euro-MPs.

The new budget amounts to about £10,310m, of which £9,250m would actually be spent in the calendar year, 1980. (The rest would be carried forward into the next year.)

The comparable figures (at current exchange rates) in the draft budget rejected last December by the Parliament were £10,490m and £9,710m.

The reduction in the overall size of the proposed budget is explained mainly by a cut of 10 per cent in farm price support, the main item in the budget.

As Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Commissioner for the Budget explained today to the Parliament, this has enabled the Commission to add £220m or so to non-farm spending, mainly on the development of the EEC's poorer regions and industrial retraining schemes.

Looked at more closely, the new draft budget does little to alter the overall imbalance in the Community's spending priorities. Farm spending, for example, would still account for more than 70 per cent of total expenditure in calendar 1980.

None the less, the curb on agricultural spending, coupled with more money for other areas—even if less than demanded last December by the Parliament—would probably be enough to satisfy many Euro-MPs.

For the moment, however, the whole package is little more than an academic exercise, since the envisaged agricultural savings assume that the Commission's recently announced farm-price proposals and related measures for curbing over-production of milk and sugar.

The chorus of complaint from national farming lobbies suggests that there is very little chance of such agreement being reached, and certainly

not by the April 1 target date, in which case the Commission's arithmetic will need to be drastically reworked.

The next step is "consideration of the budget proposal by EEC budget ministers. Countries like France, seem certain to insist that the results of the farm-price fixing, which could drag on well into the summer, should be included in the amended draft the Council will eventually pass to the Parliament for adoption."

That would put the Parliament in the position of either rejecting the budget again, or rubber stamping the decisions of EEC agricultural ministers—the very issue over which Euro-MPs made their show of defiance last December.

Alternatively, the Council of Ministers could allow the Parliament to adopt the budget in something like the form proposed by the Commission prior to the farm-price fixing. Member states could then request a supplementary budget later in the year to cover spending overruns in the agricultural sector.

Although the Parliament has the power to reject a supplementary budget, it seems doubtful whether the necessary majority could be found to do so.

To refuse the supplementary budget would plunge the EEC into immediate financial crisis, whereas the Parliament made its gesture of defiance last December, knowing that the EEC's finances would not come under strain for at least six months.

An interesting footnote to the Commission's new proposal is the discovery that that part of budget revenue which comes from import duties and levies has proved much more buoyant than expected.

If approved, the proposal would still leave a margin of nearly £2,000m of additional expenditure before the EEC exhausted the proceeds from the added tax, which, for Community purposes can be levied up to a maximum rate of 1 per cent.

This means that the reimbursement of Britain's £1,000m net budget contribution would be financed out of the Community's existing revenue resources if there was the political will to do so.

Leading article, page 17

Restaurants in Italy go on strike

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Feb 14

Restaurants throughout Italy and many bars will remain closed tomorrow, as a protest against the Government's introduction of a form of tax receipt to be completed by the owners as part of the campaign against tax evasion.

The new arrangements are due to come into effect on March 1 when the restaurants will shut again if the Government does not agree to modify its proposals.

A meeting between representatives of the restaurant owners and Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, last night failed to change the situation and the final decision to close out customers was announced today.

The restaurateurs maintain that the Government is placing too much administrative work on restaurant staffs, especially for the small family businesses, and showing an excessively severe attitude by the heavy punishments on transgressors.

They have asked for simplification of the receipt forms, time to allow the new system to be run in and a reasonable period of practice before heavy fines are inflicted.

They are also complaining that the authorities fail to give them adequate protection against the wave of violence which has struck restaurants, especially in Milan and Rome.

Madrid Metro crash injures more than 80

Madrid, Feb 14—More than 80 people were injured, none seriously, when two Madrid underground trains collided during the morning rush hour today.

A spokesman for the Civil Governor's office said the first train was running slowly because of a broken rail in a bend known to Metro workers as "the death curve". A second train drove into it from the back after its brakes failed.

The once privately-owned Madrid Metro was put under Government control nearly two years ago after more than 200 people were injured in two accidents in four days.—Reuter.

Son asks prayers for murderers

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Feb 14

At the state funeral of Signor Vittorio Bachelet today his son called for prayers for his father's murderers. Signor Bachelet, vice-chairman of the Higher Judicial Council was shot on Tuesday on the steps of the faculty where he taught at Rome University.

His son, Giovanni, aged 24, stood up in the fashionable Parish Church of St Robert Bellarmine in the presence of President Pertini, the Prime Minister and thousands of mourners to give a remarkable reminder of the moral sense which can still emerge from this battered country.

He said: "We pray for Sandro Pertini, for Cossiga and

his Government, for the judges, for the police, for the carabinieri, for the prison staff.

"We pray for all those who, in Parliament, in the institutions and in the highways, defend democracy. We pray also for those who have struck down the course of justice because we must always have words of pardon ready and because life must triumph over death."

There was an extraordinary moment of silence in the crowded church. Suddenly everyone was applauding.

The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Poletti, the Pope's Vicar for Rome, and two brothers of Signor Bachelet who are Jesuit priests.

Apart from his work for the Higher Judicial Council and as a law lecturer, Signor Bachelet was active in Catholic life. He had known for many months, as the result of enquiries into the kidnapping and death of his friend Signor Aldo Moro, that he too was on the assassination list of the "Red Brigades", terrorist movement.

He had refused an escort. Signor Moro's bodyguard of five was annihilated when he was kidnapped.

To the killers, Cardinal Poletti said: "Each blow of yours is bringing our new and increasingly generous ideas of solidarity, of civil society, of resistance to violence, above all in young people."

PUBLIC AUCTIONS at SHORT NOTICE

AIRFREIGHT WAREHOUSE HEATHROW AIRPORT

Balance of a late Arrival Contracted Order

HIGH QUALITY VALUABLE

PERSIAN AND AFGHAN CARPETS

AND FINE HANDMADE RUGS OF

OTHER ORIGINS

Ordered in 1979 for contracted delivery November 1979

through Brokers for London Importers Seasonal Sale

Due to internal strife in Iran and intermittent closure of

Tehran Customs the sales of Persian rugs could not be moved

on contracted dates and were finally airfreighted to

Amsterdam to join other sales for transshipment London.

AUCTIONS AT THE WAREHOUSE OF FREIGHT AGENTS

LODEPORT LTD.

138 Chalmers Way, (Off Central Way)

North Feltham Trading Estate, Feltham, Middlesex.

(Turn off Great South West Road (A30) into Faggs Road (A312)

opposite Hutton Cross Underground Station go through 1st traffic

lights and bear right, Central Way 2nd on left)

Auction Five Bales Marks: PC 1/5 Piece by Piece

SATURDAY, 16th FEB., 11 a.m./VIEW 10 a.m.

Auction Remaining Five Bales Marks: PC 6/10 Piece by Piece

SUNDAY, 17th FEB., 11 a.m./VIEW 10 a.m.

TERMS: CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUES

Douglas Jackson, Hammond & Co., Auctioneers.

مکان من الاجل

Imperial Group Ltd.- part of the country's foundations.

A country's economy can only flourish when its foundations are strong. And the foundations of any economy must be the real wealth-producers: those few companies that year by year quietly go on adding to the nation's treasury. Imperial Group is such a company. Last year Imperial paid nearly £5m a day in taxes of one kind or another—money that keeps our welfare services going, our schools open, pays pensions, even helps support ailing industries.

Imperial makes things—over a thousand different products. Products that include tobacco goods from W.D. & H.O. Wills, John Player & Sons and Ogden's; foods from Ross Foods, Buxted Poultry, Golden Wonder, Smedley-HP Foods, Young's Seafoods; beers from Courage and John Smith.

Imperial provides jobs—nearly 100,000 at the last count. And through those hundred thousand employees, Imperial provides support for their families and dependants too.

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WEST EUROPE

Soviet official caught spying by French

From Charles Margrove
Paris, Feb 14

Mr Gennadiy Travkov a Soviet consular official in Marseilles, was caught on Saturday by officials of the DST, the French counter-espionage agency, as he was taking delivery of defence secrets concerning the Mirage 2000 combat aircraft.

It is scheduled to replace the Mirage 3 fighter of the French Air Force by 1984. Four prototypes of the aircraft are now undergoing trials at Istres, near Marseilles.

Mr Travkov's job at the consulate general was to study scientific questions related to the port and airport of Marseilles. He had been in his present post for three years. It was also disclosed by official sources today that he had attempted to infiltrate Sniass, the aircraft construction firm producing the Mirage 2000.

The Soviet official left Marseilles for Moscow on Sunday.

Several other people are reported to have been detained by the police in Marseilles in connection with the Travkov affair.

This espionage affair has broken out amid signs of a distinct cooling of relations between France and Russia caused by the Soviet interven-

tion in Afghanistan and the banishment of Dr Andrei Sakharov.

Although the French Government remains opposed to economic sanctions, on the ground that they are both ineffective and counter-productive, it has made it clear repeatedly in the past couple of weeks that there can be no restoration of a positive climate of détente, and of the cooperation that goes with it, so long as Moscow does not withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

M Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, who is on an official visit to Helsinki, said last night at the dinner given in his honour by his Finnish colleague that "confidence must be restored to those who have undermined it. It is indispensable for détente. It is necessary in order that the Madrid meeting (to take stock of the application of the Helsinki agreement) can be productive."

Arrest in Spain: Mr Oleg Suranov, Madrid director of the Soviet airline Aeroflot, was arrested today for alleged spying and was expected to be deported tonight. He would be the fifth Russian expelled from Spain for alleged spying since diplomatic links were restored in 1977.—Reuters.

Strikers secure release of Greenpeace boat

By David Nicholson-Lord

A protest strike by 3,000 local trade unionists led to the release from Cherbourg yesterday of a boat belonging to Greenpeace, the international ecology group.

It had been impounded by the authorities and the captain was arrested.

The demonstration by trade unionists followed angry scenes in the harbour early yesterday morning as anti-nuclear protesters joined with the crew of the Rainbow Warrior in unsuccessful attempts to stop the unloading of a cargo of spent Japanese nuclear fuel.

It was destined for the French reprocessing plant at La Hague, the fuel being carried in the British Nuclear Fuels vessel Pacific Swan.

The Rainbow Warrior, defying an order banning it from French territorial waters, followed the Pacific Swan into the harbour and was immediately impounded.

Police turned water cannon on a group of 30 demonstrators after six protesters were arrested as they tried to manoeuvre small inflatable boats between the fuel vessel and the quayside.

During the unloading, according to Greenpeace, one of the steel casks carrying the fuel was dropped while the police said they found an incendiary device.

Police widow kills herself

Nice, Feb 14.—The wife of a French policeman who was accidentally killed by other policemen on Tuesday, shot herself on Wednesday, and then shot herself with her husband's service pistol early today, police said.

She was despondent after being told that her husband, M Philippe Maziz, aged 25, was shot in the head by mistake by four members of the anti-gang

squad, who, like M Maziz, were closing in on the villa where M Guy Pitoun, a Riviera businessman, had been held by kidnappers.

Mrs Maziz committed suicide after killing their only child not long before the funeral of her husband, investigators said.

Police unions have blamed the "flagrant lack of coordination between different branches of the force" when several are working on a case.—UPI.

OVERSEAS

Iran minister says inquiry into Shah being set up

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Feb 14

The latest arrests in Southern Rhodesia of Zanu (PF) candidates and party officials on charges of aiding and failing to report the presence of guerrillas, has provoked new protests over "bias" from party officials and sympathisers.

The arrests — which Mr Robert Mugabe, the party's leader, claims, now numbered about 2,500 — will be added to a catalogue of complaints being drawn up by Zanu (PF) that purports to show that Lord Soames, the Governor, is showing a distinct bias against the party during the run-up to the election.

The party's criticism of Lord Soames' actions in recent weeks stems from the belief that he (supported by the British Government) is determined to ensure that Zanu (PF) does not form the first government of an independent Zimbabwe.

The party is supremely confident of winning the largest number of black seats in the parliament and regards the move by Lord Soames as being designed to reduce a Zanu (PF) majority and to facilitate the formation of an anti-Zanu (PF) coalition between the more moderate black parties.

The British administration naturally denies that it is prejudiced one way or another. Officials argue that if Lord Soames seems to be acting mainly against the party and its majority wing, Zanu (PF) is because they are responsible for most political intimidation and violations of the ceasefire.

The impression among independent observers in Salisbury is that Lord Soames' claim to be neutral is being tested. In particular, it is felt that his over-reliance on the existing Rhodesian administration, particularly the police, is being

Arrests fuel charges of official bias against Mr Mugabe

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ularly for information about what is happening around the country, is mainly responsible for his apparent one-sidedness. Zanu (PF) claims that Lord Soames showed bias from the start when Mr Mugabe's return to the country was delayed because other parties had already planned election rallies in Salisbury. Since then, one of the party's main complaints has been that it is blamed for most acts of intimidation, yet Zanu (PF) leaders have been the main targets for assassination attempts.

In particular the party resents the fact that Lord Soames seems to close his eyes to alleged misdemeanours by the Security Force Auxiliaries who, the Governor insists, are not a political force but an integral part of the security forces under his authority.

Zanu (PF) also argues that the extensive use Lord Soames has made of the Security Forces to support the police in maintaining law and order has had an intimidatory effect on party supporters. The party says that Zanu guerrillas have been called from their assembly areas to help maintain law and order although they are, under the Lancaster House agreement, also a force under the Governor's authority.

There have been the arrests of party workers, often for no more serious an offence than shouting the party's rallying cry.

There are other, smaller, but none the less aggravating, matters that have convinced the party that the dice are loaded against them.

For instance, there is still no telephone in the party's headquarters although one was requested more than a month ago. About 500 Zanu (PF) members wanted to import from Mozambique to transport candidates are being held at Umfolozi, a Rhodesian customs post at Umfolozi.



A farmer at a polling station in Southern Rhodesia in the election for white seats that started yesterday.

Pamphlets and posters have been banned, because they were considered inflammatory. The party has even blamed the British for their difficulty in obtaining petrol coupons.

While some of these allegations are undoubtedly exaggerated, and sometimes based on incorrect evidence, they would seem to be some justification for the complaints about unfair treatment.

There is no doubt that Lord Soames is genuinely concerned about the level of political intimidation in the countryside. But he is equally conscious that the election must be seen to be free and fair if it is to win international acceptance.

It would seem, therefore, that he is to some extent continuing the brinkmanship tactics that Lord Carrington used at the Lancaster House conference.

Mr Carter sees hope of hostages' release

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 14

President Carter has taken a cautious step towards ending the 102-day seizure of the American Embassy and its staff in Tehran by endorsing the idea of an inquiry into the prolonged incarceration of the hostages in Tehran.

The President's reaction to Mr Kennedy's remarks was foreboding earlier yesterday when he said that the "obnoxious" and "cynical" to describe the senator's comments.

Even the normally placid Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, joined the chorus of consternation with a more statesmanlike turn of phrase.

Predictably, Senator Kennedy brushed aside the criticism, saying that Mr Carter was confused. He was blaming the President not the United States for mistakes in foreign policy, he said. Mr Kennedy was campaigning in his home state of Massachusetts.

President Carter's decision to take Mr Kennedy to task appears to stem from a fear that credit for the release of the hostages, if it comes, might go to the senator. Mr Kennedy has been suggesting that progress on the hostages began only when the United States suggested solutions in his campaign speeches.

The rest of the President's replies at last night's press conference contained no great surprises.

Asked whether American troops should ever be used to defend Yugoslavia against a Soviet attack, Mr Carter said he "would seriously consider" giving such aid if it were requested.

On his request for an American boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow, Mr Carter said it would be "inconceivable" for any nation to send athletes to the capital of a country which was "actively involved in the invasion and subjugation of innocent people."

On his proposal to begin the registration of potential military conscripts, the President said he thought there had been "gross over-reaction" to the idea. "The best way to prevent a draft is to encourage future and mobilization of our nation's efforts... is to be prepared."

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US actions 'threaten' Gulf states

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 14

The Russians today denounced President Carter's dispatch of Marines to the Arabian Sea as another step in the escalation of tension in the area.

They also accused America of using Pakistan as a centre for their imperialist plans and turning a blind eye to the country's work on a nuclear bomb.

Pravda said with the dispatch of Marines the "Carter doctrine" had now been put into effect. This aimed to prevent social changes unfavourable to the United States in the region in order to protect American oil supplies.

Pentagon officials were looking for launching pads for future intervention, it claimed. The targets might include not only Iran but other Gulf states.

Pravda said, apart from Egypt and Oman, the Arab world did not want to allow any American military bases "in spite of the lavish promises of aid and intimidation with the mythical Soviet threat."

UN Security 27 votes for, the United States and the Soviet Union, against the Arab League. The United Nations Commission today approved a resolution demanding immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan (Alan McGregor reports from Geneva).

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Mrs Thatcher advises boycott of Olympics

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

British athletes are to be advised by the Government not to take part in the Moscow Olympic Games, Mrs Thatcher, Prime Minister, told the Commons yesterday.

Her announcement caught many at Westminster by surprise for she appeared to have pre-empted the EEC Foreign Ministers' meeting in Rome next week when a common line will be sought towards Russian intervention in Afghanistan.

However, the surprise was limited to the timing, since the Prime Minister's declaration is a logical development of cabinet thinking and she no doubt thought it right to make the announcement in view of the decision by the International Olympic Committee to reject requests for a boycott.

The only challenge came from Mr James Kilfedder, leader of the Ulster Protestant Unionist Party, who asked why the Government was attempting to penalise British athletes who had been training for years to compete in Moscow.

The Government, he added, could, if it deemed it necessary to take political action, withdraw the British Ambassador from Moscow.

To shouts of opposition from the Labour benches, Mrs Thatcher replied: "These Moscow Olympics, like their predecessors in 1936, will be used substantially for propaganda purposes."

"What we are saying is that athletes are just like any other kind of citizens. They have the same rights and responsibilities towards freedom and its maintenance as every citizen in the United Kingdom."

Killian popularity: In the past few days Lord Killian, president of the International Olympic Committee, has become popular with the Soviet press. The Irish peer is being praised for having given a "firing rebuff" to attempts to harm the Olympic movement and for making a "logical" decision (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow).

Pravda said today the decision to go ahead with the Games in Moscow was in accordance with the provisions of the Olympic charter, the ideas of the Olympic movement, peace and friendship. It was supported by many athletes, coaches and sporting officials.

The party newspaper emphasized that relations between American and Soviet athletes at Lake Placid were good and many American competitors were angry at Washington's call for the transfer or postponement of the summer games in Moscow.

Tass noted that "in spite of the anti-Soviet hysteria unleashed in the American press, the audience gave a warm welcome in the stadium to the Soviet delegation."

Trudeau opposition: Mr Pierre Trudeau, tipped to become Prime Minister of Canada again next week, today opposed a boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games unless it had massive international support.

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Earthquake in India starts eclipse panic

Delhi, Feb 14.—A strong earthquake in India's mountainous north-west Ladakh territory today caused panic among people who fear that a disastrous earthquake may follow a total eclipse of the sun over the country on Saturday.

The Meteorological Department has said the epicentre of the earthquake was about 450 miles north of the capital and registered a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale.

It struck in the north-west, but most concern is being felt in north-east India, where seismologists believe a big earthquake will occur this year.

Saturday's total solar eclipse in a belt up to 80 miles wide is regarded as highly important by millions of Hindus who will bathe in rivers and sacred lakes throughout the country during the eclipse to ward off evil.—Reuters.

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Divided Afghan Muslims lack a dominant figure for leader

From Robert Fisk
Kabul, Feb 14

The Speaker of the Poleshesti Mosque in the centre of Kabul is a small man with a thin, sallow face whose features betray lines of worry and anxiety. He arrives one minute before morning prayers, walking quickly across the icy courtyard and leaving immediately his devotions are completed.

He does not want to discuss the problems of his people and when he speaks outside his mosque, he looks occasionally over his right shoulder as if expecting to see someone watching him.

He did not want to answer a series of questions from The Times written out in Pushtu for his inspection. What was the position of Islam in Afghanistan since December, he was asked. Were Muslims in Kabul happy? He waved the paper in the frozen air in a gesture of hopelessness.

"Your questions are all political," he replied. "One of your questions is asking if the people are happy with the new regime

of Babrak Karmal. I answer no questions about him. I do not represent the people. I will answer only religious questions."

His reply could have been expected. As Kharib (Speaker) of the Poleshesti, he has only to interpret the Koran, not to deliver sermons on the morality of his Government. Since the city's Khatibs were all appointed by the revolutionary governments of the past two years, he has no real chance that he would unburden himself of any feelings about the Soviet Union's military intervention in his country.

If there was any political independence among the Muslim Sunni clergy in Kabul, it has been ruthlessly wiped out since the coup that brought Nur Mohamed Tarraki to power in 1978.

A few days after Tarraki's revolution, calls for a jihad (holy war) were read from the minaret. The police then raided all religious institutions and dissenting mullahs were dispatched to the Poleshesti prison whence they never emerged.

It is unlikely, however, that such brutal repression alone accounts for the lack of any serious political leadership within the clergy. A decapitated church can scarcely give much political guidance to its flock but the history of Islam in Afghanistan suggests that for the present at least—the clergy cannot expect the emergence of any dominant figure such as neighbouring Iran has had since the overthrow of the Shah.

There are two reasons for this. First is the opposing ratio of Islamic sects in the two countries. The Shia, whose self-sacrifice and emphasis on martyrdom did so much to fuel the Iranian revolution, are only a minority in Afghanistan while the Sunnis form a majority.

Apart from the western city of Herat, where pictures of Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Shariat-Madari have appeared on the walls, there is no fundamentalist suspicion in Afghanistan of the kind of power exercised by the leading clericalmen in Iran: it suggests, perhaps, a national subservience on the part of Iranians which Afghanistan is simply not prepared to contemplate.

Islam is a formalistic religion and among Sunnis even the leaders of prayer in the mosques have a bureaucratic function rather than a vocation. The village mullahs, with their golden caps and tightly fixed silk turbans, have to learn the Koran, not interpret its meaning.

More important still is that Islam in Afghanistan has never been a particularly fanatical religion—despite the fierce reputation that the nation's tribesmen have acquired in Western consciousness.

The power of religion here is strong but not extreme, and the lack of any hierarchy within the Sunni sect has prevented the mullahs from using their position as a device to create political unity within the country.

Indeed, Afghanistan as a unified nation has never really existed. The monarchy once provided a kind of frame which held the country together but—although the last king is occasionally toasted in village tea-houses now that more ominous potentates have appeared in Kabul—the spendthrift rulers who once governed Afghanistan were never really popular.

When the monarchy disappeared, however, the only common denominator within Afghanistan was religion and for the first time identified with nationalism as well as traditionalism.

It is still an intensely class-conscious religion: the Poleshesti, for example, caters for poor people while the military men of the Blue Mosque and the remains of the country's aristocratic society go to the two-tiered Do Sham Shiram Mosque in Kabul.

But an Afghan can no longer claim to be an Afghan without being a Muslim, for Islam has become a state of mind as well as a religion for tens of thousands of people.

The new Government of Babrak Karmal has recognized this new phenomenon and all

Earthquake in India starts eclipse panic

Delhi, Feb 14.—A strong earthquake in India's mountainous north-west Ladakh territory today caused panic among people who fear that a disastrous earthquake may follow a total eclipse of the sun over the country on Saturday.

The Meteorological Department has said the epicentre of the earthquake was about 450 miles north of the capital and registered a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale.

It struck in the north-west, but most concern is being felt in north-east India, where seismologists believe a big earthquake will occur this year.

Saturday's total solar eclipse in a belt up to 80 miles wide is regarded as highly important by millions of Hindus who will bathe in rivers and sacred lakes throughout the country during the eclipse to ward off evil.—Reuters.

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OVERSEAS

Turkish troops seize Izmir factory after battle with workers

Ankara, Feb. 14.—Turkish troops using armoured cars stormed a state cotton-yarn factory in the western town of Izmir today and evicted about 1,000 protesting left-wing workers after a gun battle, eyewitnesses reported.

One policeman was wounded as police and hundreds of the 10,000 soldiers on the scene, supported by tanks and helicopters, rushed into the factory, scene of almost daily violence for the last few weeks. As troops fought in other Turkish towns with leftist workers and students in sympathy with the Izmir workers, the Cabinet of Mr Süleiman Demirel, after a routine meeting, called on the nation not to panic.

The troops carrying assault rifles stormed the factory after the workers ignored an ultimatum to end their strike. Tanks surrounded the plant, armoured cars burst through the doors and the soldiers ran in.

After an exchange of fire—the workers were apparently armed with pistols—the workers surrendered and came out with their hands up, witnesses said. Some were taken to a sports stadium and detained, they added.

A general strike in Izmir, an Aegean resort, continued tonight. Municipal workers were apparently striking in support of the cotton-yarn factory workers while other businesses stayed closed because of the violence.

The workers occupied the factory to protest against large-scale dismissals of left-leaning workers after the change from

a left-wing to a right-wing Government in Ankara last November.

The state radio broke its silence to say that the Cabinet had discussed "incidents of violence in Izmir, Istanbul, Tunceli and Kars".

Heavily armed riotarmen clashed with leftist workers and students in the eastern town of Tunceli, according to the semi-official Anatolian news agency. One person died and three were wounded, two seriously, it said.

The agency quoted the Tunceli provincial governor as saying: "The town looks as though there's a war going on".

Farther east, in Kars, near the Soviet border, leftist bombed several banks but no casualties were reported.

In Istanbul, residents said many shops stayed shut today after an unknown group threatened shopkeepers with violence if they did not close recent economic measures including big price rises.

Police said tonight that 300 people had been detained.

Opposition leader and former Prime Minister, accused the Government of carrying out "the worst repression the world has seen since the regime of Idi Amin in Uganda". In an uncharacteristically strong statement, Mr Ecevit said he was most concerned about the political situation now than he had been before the last military coup in 1971.

He said Mr Demirel had "blown up all the possible bridges" between their two parties.—Reuters.

Liberal reforms likely in the post-Tito era

Continued from page 1

sis is to be kept even more strongly on independence and on safeguarding Yugoslavia against outside threats and internally the reformist liberalizing course is to continue.

In fact the collective leadership of the party has been assuming increasing responsibility over the past few years as President Tito left more and more of the day-to-day business to the men he chose to secure the continuity of his life work.

Since he entered hospital three weeks ago the leadership took full charge of Yugoslavia's affairs. The responsibility is divided between the party and the state along regional lines.

Mr Lazar Kolarik, the Vice-President of the state Presidency, will become the titular head of state for the remainder of his one-year term which expires in May. The presiding member of the party Presidium will take over the chairmanship until October when his term of office expires and another member of the Presidium takes over.

The state Presidency together with the party Presidium represent the intricate system of succession envisaged to safeguard against any one person climbing to the top. The system has already been functioning for nine years.

But the man who matters most is Dr Vladimir Bakarić, the urban 67-year-old lawyer from Croatia who has been close friend and aide of President Tito for more than 40 years. He is the last survivor of what was once a tightly-knit innermost circle of young Communist revolutionaries with whom President Tito started in 1938.

He is not likely to make a claim for power but he is very much the man behind the scenes. His voice is bound to prevail in the future and in situations where the regionally represented leadership may

reach deadlocks as all decisions must be passed by agreement. During the three weeks of President Tito's illness, the leadership has shown a high degree of unity and has indicated its intention for Yugoslavia in the post-Tito era.

On foreign policy Mr Milos Mitic, a Serb who is Yugoslavia's chief foreign policy strategist, has stated clearly that Yugoslavia will tolerate no pressure or interference and that it intends to pursue its independent, non-aligned course. Yugoslavia has taken a strong line on the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan.

The other message the leadership has conveyed in recent weeks is that liberalizing reforms will be resumed, perhaps even more forcefully than hitherto.

At a meeting last week the speakers, including many members of the highest party office, spoke in favour of Mr Edward Kardelj's ideas of "pluralism of interest". There seems to be no doubt that once the present critical period is over the leadership intends to push ahead with liberalizing reforms within the party, which have been long overdue.

During a meeting yesterday of the 33 members of the Defence Council, it was said that general debate, preparedness was satisfactory but that further measures must be taken.

The council was preparing contingency plans and the Army has been put in a state of increased vigilance. According to reports some reservists have been called up.

Strict security precautions have been taken while the nation awaits news of what now seems to be the last days of an era marked by President Tito's towering personality. The bulletin today leaves little doubt that President Tito's condition is critical and that the nation should be prepared for the worst.

Algeria to give Seychelles aid in education

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Feb. 14.—The Seychelles is developing relations with other socialist governments in the African region.

Mr Jacques Hodoul, Foreign Minister of the Indian Ocean island group, who has returned from visits to Libya and Algeria, announced that 12 Algerian advisers are to be sent to the islands to help with an education programme.

Guinea has agreed to send 10 advisers to the Seychelles for two years, also to assist with education, and East Germany has sent almost a ton of drugs.

The first equipment for oil test drilling in Seychelles waters has arrived. A consortium of American oil companies is to start drilling in an area of about 8,400 square miles.

Leftists vacate embassy in San Salvador

San Salvador, Feb. 14.—Leftist militants vacated the Panamanian Embassy here today and freed their three hostages, including the Ambassador, said police.

Members of the Popular League on February 28 seized the embassy yesterday to back the demands of their comrades occupying the Spanish Embassy for the release of several detainees.

The militants also occupied the Panamanian Embassy last month, but left three days later when El Salvador's ruling junta accepted its demands for the release of seven detainees.

Leftist guerrillas and security forces today clashed in Zacatecoluca, 40 miles from San Salvador, but the guerrillas fled after a gun battle, leaving behind four dead.—Reuters.

Mr Vance criticizes Israeli plan for Hebron

From Christopher Walker

Jerusalem, Feb. 14

The Israeli Government has been strongly criticized by the United States Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance, over its decision to approve the principle of Jewish settlement in the centre of Hebron, the second largest Arab town in the occupied West Bank.

It is understood that Mr Vance's protest was contained in a letter delivered yesterday to Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister. The wording of the document is being kept secret but it reflects the Administration's increasing anger at Israel's expansionist settlement policy in lands seized in 1967.

The Government's determination to pursue that policy was emphasized when the thirty-fifth settlement to be established in the West Bank was opened this afternoon.

Officially named Karnel Shomron (The Horns of Samaria), the settlement is one of a number that will be situated west of the Arab town of Nablus overlooking the coastal plain.

At today's ceremony, Mr Ariel Sharon, the minister responsible for settlements, claimed that if Israel did not settle in what he described as Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) it would be setting "its own death trap".

Later, Jewish Agency officials disclosed that land had been located for the establishment of two more settlements in the same area. Speaking in Washington earlier this week, Mr Hoddging Carter, the State Department spokesman, described the implications of the decision taken by the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday as "serious and far reaching".

He said that an attempt to settle Israeli citizens in Hebron would have "serious consequences" for negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

Those talks are due to be resumed at ministerial level later this month amid signs that Israel's settlement policy is proving a big obstacle to progress.

Yesterday, Mr Mustafa Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister, sent a message to Mr Vance, demanding firm American action.

In addition to the Hebron decision, described by observers



Jubilant girls after finishing their basic training in the Israeli Army.

as a fundamental change from the previous Israeli policy of preventing Jews moving into large Arab centres, the Likud Government has allotted another 560,000 for buying land in the West Bank.

The allocation was approved yesterday by 11 votes to seven by the Knesset finance committee, after a request by Mr Sharon. It was not made clear where the money will be used.

Government sources said today that Mr Begin would discuss the Vance letter with Cabinet colleagues before making an official reply. There was no indication on whether the Government will respond to right-wing pressure and discuss means of starting settlements in Hebron when it meets again at the weekend.

The political and press reaction in the United States to the Hebron decision has taken some Israeli ministers by surprise and there has been resentment here at a suggestion in Washington that American aid to Israel should be reduced for each new settlement established.

The suggestion was rejected here today by Mr James McIntyre, who is leading an American delegation to Israel and Egypt that will be advising on future aid to both countries.

After meeting Mr Begin, Mr McIntyre pledged that the United States would honour its commitments to Israel in spite of its displeasure over settlements.

During the meeting, Mr Begin rejected criticism of the settlement policy. PLO provocation alleged Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon were inviting an Israeli military assault on them as part of the Soviet Union's plan for the region, a senior Israeli official said in an interview today (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

He said the plot was apparently hatched in Damascus on January 28 when Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, met President Assad of Syria, and Mr Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization chief. Its purpose was to create a new area of tension that would rivet world opinion

while the Russians quietly digested Afghanistan, the official claimed.

The Christian militia in Lebanon, with the help of Israeli supplies, had been able to hold their own against the PLO. Now the Russians had supplied the PLO with at least a dozen T34 tanks that would change the balance of power in the region.

Lebanon clashes: Rival right-wing factions battled with mortars and artillery in north Lebanon today and a left-wing leader gave warning of a new civil war unless the Government found a political solution to the country's divisions.

Beirut radio reported continuing fierce fighting this morning between Phalangist militiamen and supporters of Mr Suleiman Franjeh, the former President. Mr Edmond Rizk, the kidnapped Phalangist member of Parliament is safe and the place where he is being held is known, the Phalangist-operated radio Voice of Lebanon, reported. Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Catholics win struggle for Jasna Gora shrine

From John Darnton

Warsaw, Feb. 12

The Roman Catholic Church has won what is coming to be called the "battle of Jasna Gora", the most significant church-state confrontation since the visit to Poland by the Pope last June.

The controversy is a case study in how local disputes get out of hand and have national repercussions when the two paramount institutions in Polish life—the church and the Communist Party—come to loggerheads.

It centered upon the expansion of a bumpy strip of road at the foot of the famous Pauline monastery in Czestochowa, the holiest shrine of Polish Catholics.

The church claimed that a 32ft-wide underground passageway being constructed for pilgrims under the expanded road was too narrow to accommodate the throngs of pilgrims. It suggested that the construction project was a plot by the local authorities to restrict access to the hilltop monastery, where the revered painting of the Black Madonna has drawn worshippers for 538 years.

The authorities, both in the provincial government and at the Office for Religious Affairs in Warsaw, said the project was simply designed to ease traffic congestion and make a perilous crossing safe. Privately, officials said the church was over-reacting.

Beginning in September, Mr Stefan Barela, the bishop of Czestochowa, fired off tele-

grams and letters to 11 government agencies and ministries.

He read a series of letters to his congregation, alleging, among other things, that the construction project was intended to defile the cult of the Madonna and ensure that the Pope, who often visited Jasna Gora when he was a cardinal in Cracow near by and who preached to over a million faithful during several masses there last June, would not return for the 600th anniversary of the monastery's founding in 1382.

He ordered that the church's mighty bell should toll for 10 minutes three times a day in protest.

Cardinal Wyszynski, the head of a church adhered to by more than 50 per cent of Poland's 33 million people, responded with outrage. He called the project an act of barbarism.

High-level church sources confirmed that the Pope himself became involved.

Last Friday, the Polish Government capitulated. A statement issued by the Polish news agency, Pap, reported that the dispute had been resolved. It said that under an agreement reached by a commission of church and state representatives, the authorities would abandon the tunnel underpass, close the cross street during pilgrimages and install a traffic light there.

Despite the compromise, feelings run high on both sides. Government officials insist that the agreement was reached as far back as January 7 and accuse the church of drumming up a needless controversy.—New York Times News Service.

Absence of Polish Premier puts his future in doubt

Warsaw, Feb. 14.—The political future of Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Prime Minister, became increasingly in doubt today when he failed to make a planned afternoon speech before the Polish party congress.

His absence seemed particularly striking since he had been present at debates this morning. Polish officials said they could not say when the speech would be made.

The new uncertainty over Mr Jaroszewicz's political fate was preceded by ambiguous statements on the governing of the country made by Mr Edward Gierek, the party secretary, and other congress delegates earlier this week. His position seemed shaky during discussions and meetings yesterday.

It appeared that Mr Jaroszewicz would no longer be part of the Politbureau and would be content to take care of business only until legislative elections on March 23. His health has been officially cited as the reason for his departure.

—Agence France Presse.

Moscow's Shostakovich memoir

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Feb. 14

The Russians have published their version of the Shostakovich memoirs. It quotes the composer praising the artistic and spiritual freedom in the Soviet Union.

The book, though not yet on sale, comes three months after the memoirs published in the United States, which were bitterly denounced here as a forgery.

Tass said the book, *Shostakovich, His Life and Times*, had been painstakingly compiled over many years by Soviet musicologists and journalists, with the help of Shostakovich's family. It was a "strictly documented" collection of speeches, notes, letters and interviews spanning almost 50 years of the composer's life up to his death in 1975.

The newsagency clearly hoped to show that the book was not simply a hasty reply to the book edited by Mr Solomon Volkov, an emigrant now living in New York. The composer's son, Maxim, said the Volkov memoir, which depicts Shostakovich as an embittered man who resented the authorities' restrictions on his work, was a compilation of rumours and anecdotes.

According to Tass, Shostakovich expressed strong support for the Soviet regime. "Soviet musicians highly value the spiritual freedom won for their creativity by the working people", the composer is quoted as saying.

Tanker had no oil when it sank

Dakar, Feb. 14.—A Senegalese Government inquiry has concluded that the tanker Salem was not carrying its listed cargo of 193,132 tonnes of crude oil when it sank off the coast of Senegal last month.

The finding was announced by the Merchant Marine Authority, which has been investigating the sinking. The Salem went down on January 17 after being rocked by explosions. In Liberia, where the ship was registered, officials are convinced that the oil had been unloaded at Durban.—Reuters.

Kampuchea 'faces famine threat'

Singapore, Feb. 14.—Food supplies in Kampuchea will run out by the end of next month and the war-ravaged country will then be entirely dependent on food from the outside world, a British aid worker said here today.

Mr Geoffrey Busby, a representative of Oxfam, said at least one million tonnes of food must be shipped into Kampuchea before the next harvest in October in order to prevent a disaster.

More than three million people, mainly in rural areas, would face starvation if the food failed to reach them in time, Mr Busby said.

"The present food supplies will last till the end of March. Thereafter the country will be

entirely dependent on food from the outside to sustain its population until the next harvest in the autumn", he added.

The crisis had been caused by a poor harvest last season. Mr Busby, who has just returned from a one-week visit to Kampuchea, said that international relief agencies, including the Red Cross and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), could supply the vast amount of food, but a greater problem would be distribution within Phnom Penh.

The facilities at Som, Kam and Kompong Som, Kampuchea's two main ports where most food supplies land, are improved but the roads are in a poor state of

repair, making it difficult to speed up food deliveries to the countryside.

"A great deal of organization and careful logistical plans will have to be worked out to make sure that big quantities of food are properly landed and distributed. Certain areas in the country are no-go areas as far as the Phnom Penh Government of Heng Samrin is concerned. They are Pol Pot areas, where people tell us fighting is still going on", he added.

Mr Busby said relief convoys were usually harassed by Pol Pot forces. "Some aid workers, carrying medical supplies, move without any escort at all. We have never been harassed by Pol Pot forces."—Reuters.



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PARLIAMENT, February 14, 1980

Making unions pay for strikes: plan proceeds to link union funds with social security benefits

House of Commons

Government plans for deeming certain amounts to be paid from trade union funds against supplementary benefit were going ahead, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time.

She added that she hoped to be able to make an announcement soon.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Scunthorpe, C) had asked if she had noted that the ITC had assets of around £11m and as yet had paid no strike pay.

Is it not time (he went on) for the unions rather than the taxpayers to accept responsibility for the hardship they inflict upon their members, many of whom are on strike against their wishes?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) totally agreed. A number of unions do pay strike pay and are paying it during the strike, but not the ITC which has a large amount of money in investments.

We said in our manifesto that we would deem certain amounts to be paid from union funds to be against supplementary benefits. Those plans are going ahead and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement soon.

Exchanges over the steel dispute and picketing in Sheffield began when Mr Iver Stambrook (Bromley, Orpington, C) asked—Has the Prime Minister seen reports of thousands of so-called pickets in violent disturbances outside Hadfield's this morning?

They were led by a notorious communist (Labour protests)—with no connection with the dispute whose true purpose was to create a revolutionary situation. (Labour laughter.)

We need an alteration in the law to control a situation like that?

Mrs Thatcher—There are two aspects. The civil law is being changed, I believe in Section 14 of the Employment Bill, and I hope we will see a solution of that

problem in that people in future can only lawfully picket at or near their place of work and an injunction could be taken against any not within that category.

On criminal law, I wholly agree with its implication, that the law is there and that numbers are both intimidating and obstructive. (Loud Conservative cheers.) Their presence is meant to intimidate. But I also agree that it is difficult at present to enforce that effectively.

Mr James Hamilton (Bothwell, Lab)—Will the Prime Minister reflect on the reasons for the hostile picketing in the steel industry? The ITC which has a large amount of money in investments.

Mrs Thatcher—There is a right peacefully to picket. That does not seem to viewers to be the right of picketing that is being asserted outside Hadfield's at the present time. Those who undertake picketing in other ways attract great criticism on the part of the public and the media.

Would the re-confirm the basic and moral right of workers not in dispute to go to their place of work and to work? (Renewed Conservative cheers and Labour interruptions.)

Mr George Foulkes (South Ayrshire, Lab)—Which aspects of her economic and industrial policies have been the most successful so far? (More Labour laughter.)

Mrs Thatcher—Practically nearly all. (Further Conservative cheers and loud Labour laughter.)

Mr John Gost (Barnet, Hendon, North, C)—Would she consider limiting the right to assemble and demonstrate within the view or hearing of any place where there is an industrial dispute taking place?

Mrs Thatcher—It would be best if it went through the Bill as it is. There are considerable restrictions on the right to picket in Section 14. I understand it has yet to go through committee and report stage. If that amendment is needed there will be the opportunity to do so.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab)—Will she find out what the Chancellor of the Exchequer is doing, making all these speeches about industrial relations? Is it that he expects his monetary policies to fail disastrously and is busy searching for a scapegoat?

Mrs Thatcher—He is making speeches on that subject because he is good at it. (Loud Labour laughter.)

Mr Thatcher—I would be very happy indeed to convey Mr Blackburn's message to the chief constable and to the police for the officers who have been carrying out their difficult duties. Picketing of this kind puts a tremendous burden upon them and they have to be very careful.

I am happy to confirm that it is the right of the ordinary law-abiding citizen to go about his business and to exercise his place of freedom and his maintenance as every citizen of the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister was answering Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C) who said: Britain is represented on the International Olympic committee by the Exeter and Luke, Lord Exeter and Lord Luke. (Laughter.)

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West Devon, C)—The splendid Olympic Games in Moscow. Mr Blackburn would be much more effective if backed by the Leader of the Opposition? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—There are times when I am grateful for his silence. (Laughter.)

UK athletes advised not to go to Moscow

The Government has decided to advise British athletes not to go to the Olympic Games in Moscow, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time.

She said: They have the same right to go to the Games as we have and it is our duty to ensure that they are not put in a position of disadvantage.

The Prime Minister was answering Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C) who said: Britain is represented on the International Olympic committee by the Exeter and Luke, Lord Exeter and Lord Luke. (Laughter.)

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West Devon, C)—The splendid Olympic Games in Moscow. Mr Blackburn would be much more effective if backed by the Leader of the Opposition? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—There are times when I am grateful for his silence. (Laughter.)

Further measures to boost employment

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, announced in a statement a number of changes for the coming financial year in the special employment measures.

Mr Prior said: We announced in June 1979 last year some changes in the programme of special employment measures for 1979-80 which were designed to focus them more on the needs of the young and on special employment needs and to reduce public expenditure. The current programme of measures expires on March 31 and we have been reviewing the measures, again taking account of their cost-effectiveness, and the particular groups most in need of assistance.

What we can afford. We have reached the following decisions on the programme to operate in the year from April 1, 1980.

We have agreed to a proposal from the Manpower Services Commission to increase the size of the youth opportunities programme from 1980 to 1981 to 250,000-260,000 entrants in 1980-81, with the number of filled places increasing to 100,000-105,000.

This expansion will be further work experience and training opportunities for unemployed young people designed to improve their skills and to give them a taste of the world of work.

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Rational and sensible fishing policy sought

The Government's most important achievement for the British fishing industry would be an EEC common fishing policy which met Britain's requirements, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Worcester, C), said when he opened a debate on common fisheries policy.

Negotiations currently taking place would be moving towards the questions of access and areas of fishing, but it was possible in the coming weeks and months.

The Government's view remained exactly as he and his predecessor had always expressed it. British and European waters had already suffered from the lack of sensible policies in the past. British fishermen generally welcomed the importance of pursuing sensible conservation policies.

He saw no reason why a sensible quota system would be reached by July. It was good for the British fishing industry and the other fishing interests of Europe. That would be the next stage of negotiations.

There was not a great difference in principle between member states on conservation measures. Under the present arrangements, the United Kingdom believed it had the legal right to take whatever conservation measures were necessary for its own waters.

At present member nations were caught reporting using national methods which could agree by July. It was good for the British fishing industry and the other fishing interests of Europe. That would be the next stage of negotiations.

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UK athletes advised not to go to Moscow

The Government has decided to advise British athletes not to go to the Olympic Games in Moscow, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time.

She said: They have the same right to go to the Games as we have and it is our duty to ensure that they are not put in a position of disadvantage.

The Prime Minister was answering Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C) who said: Britain is represented on the International Olympic committee by the Exeter and Luke, Lord Exeter and Lord Luke. (Laughter.)

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West Devon, C)—The splendid Olympic Games in Moscow. Mr Blackburn would be much more effective if backed by the Leader of the Opposition? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—There are times when I am grateful for his silence. (Laughter.)

Further measures to boost employment

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, announced in a statement a number of changes for the coming financial year in the special employment measures.

Mr Prior said: We announced in June 1979 last year some changes in the programme of special employment measures for 1979-80 which were designed to focus them more on the needs of the young and on special employment needs and to reduce public expenditure. The current programme of measures expires on March 31 and we have been reviewing the measures, again taking account of their cost-effectiveness, and the particular groups most in need of assistance.

What we can afford. We have reached the following decisions on the programme to operate in the year from April 1, 1980.

We have agreed to a proposal from the Manpower Services Commission to increase the size of the youth opportunities programme from 1980 to 1981 to 250,000-260,000 entrants in 1980-81, with the number of filled places increasing to 100,000-105,000.

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New transmitters for broadcasts to Russia

House of Lords

The Government was not satisfied with the strength of the BBC transmitters used for the Russian language service and was providing £5.5m in the current financial year to improve the quality of external broadcasts, Lord Trevartha, Lord in Waiting, said during questions.

Lord Chelwood (C) had asked if the Government would consider the strength of these transmitters.

Lord Trevartha—The Government are not satisfied with the strength of the BBC transmitters used for the Russian language service and for this reason have made financial provision for a capital programme to improve the quality of the BBC's external broadcasts which is now under way.

The operating power of the BBC transmitters varies between 70 kilowatts (kW) and 250 kW. The Voice of America operates at 250 kW and Radio Liberty varies between 50 and 250 kW. West Germany and France operate at 100 kW, Italy at 100 kW and Spain at 350 kW.

According to the BBC, the Russian service is normally audible in the Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev areas, but the quality of reception varies according to the time of day, time of year and ionospheric conditions.

Lord Chelwood—That is encouraging so far as it goes. It is considered the longer it takes to provide BBC with powerful transmitters such as used not only by the countries with the smallest population but also by the more powerful countries as well, the more it will cost?

There has been a difficulty with planning permission for the start of construction of a new transmitter in the West Country, but I believe this has been overcome.

Lord Trevartha—I agree with a good deal of what he says. The improvement of the quality of the Russian service and the provision of a capital programme to improve the quality of the BBC's external broadcasts which is now under way.

Lord Orr-Ewing (C)—This is an urgent matter and the Government are really needed in view of the tremendous need to get the British view across in Russia and her satellites.

Lord Trevartha—We must do what we can. The quality of reception varies according to the time of day, time of year and ionospheric conditions.

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We thought about sabotaging it, and ended up insuring it.

The day British Aerospace asked us to insure two satellites being transported around Europe, one thought immediately crossed our mind.

Namely, that a satellite could very well disappear into thin air long before it reached the upper atmosphere.

(Just recently, we heard of a case of a NATO missile that vanished without trace for 24 hours somewhere in West Germany.)

Bearing this in mind, our Marine Department (the people who specialize in freight and cargo insurance), didn't just make it their business to insure the two satellites.

When they discovered that their combined value was in the region of £14 million, they even offered to help with the security arrangements.

First, they arranged with Securicor for overnight security for the satellite convoy in London. Then, the same again with the Harbour Police in Dover.

Once on the continent, they fixed direct radio contact with both the Dutch and German police, for which a special wavelength had to be opened.

Finally, police escorts were also set up to accompany the convoy through all the larger cities and provide an armed guard during overnight stops.

As a result of all these precautions, we're happy to say that both satellites were ferried from European test centre to European test centre without a hitch.

Of course such a massive security exercise would have tested the capabilities of even the most efficient insurance company.

And the fact that we came through with flying colours does seem to prove that we have more fingers on more buttons than most.

However, on a more down to earth level, the moral of our story isn't necessarily that we're experts at insuring the safe transportation of space satellites.

Or even that we're experts at all types of commercial and industrial insurance.

It's quite simply that, whatever your insurance problems, you can be sure of one thing.



At Commercial Union, we'll move heaven and earth to overcome them for you.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

The strong case for bringing the Tories and the TUC closer together

The alert is over for the moment, the troops are being stood down for a few days. Now that the 1972 Committee has been pacified, and the parliamentary draughtsmen set to work on designing immunities, it seems a good moment to look at the implications of last week's events in the light of the Conservative Party's pre-election promises and rather longer historical trends.

Ministers have learned very quickly the truth of Lord Hailsham's comment (in the 1976 Dimbleby lecture): "The actual situation with which a new Government is confronted is often vastly different from what it was imagined to be in opposition... but it is here that the doctrine of mandate takes over. However small the majority, however ill-advised the promises, however controversial the programme, the party activists insistently demand the redemption of all the pledges—egged on by the various pressure groups whose collective support has been won by the making of the pledges."

Spurred by the unpredictable evolution of the steel strike and by the equally unpredictable behaviour of the Law Lords, opinion in the Cabinet appears to have diverged not just on personalities but on fundamental issues about industrial policy and the balance of ideas in the Conservative Party.

The fact that the alert is over says no more than the Government will not try to legislate in a hurry and thus risk exposing itself as panicky and unsure, which appeared certain only seven weeks ago. It does not indicate that it will prematurely disown the deep desire for association with the state which the TUC continues to show by indirect means. And they have not yet, unwittingly, invited unfavourable comparisons by which they would certainly be judged at the next election.

So much will be a benefit only if it leads to a proper discussion of the main question: the apparent failure of our political system to provide the multiple form of interchange which, even in the 1950s, that lost golden age allowed Britain to appear as a mature, plural democracy where compromise between powerful groups remained a creative element.

There is a real danger of arousing class conflict in Britain on a scale unknown since the aftermath of the First World War. On the one hand

there is the humane, sceptical Toryism which has characterised Conservative leaders from Disraeli onwards, which never underestimates the moral and political challenge set up by its opponents, and which understands the deep linkages of identity and self-interest beneath surface conflict in Parliament or industry, binding trade unions and employers to the pluralistic state (which I have, elsewhere, called "Corporate bias"). On the other hand, there is the contemporary tendency which is more obviously "right wing" than in any leadership since at least the days of Bonar Law.

The latter may be rational, indeed reasonable, but at the level of human understanding it too often betrays a narrow-minded class bias rooted in the most myopic and threatened sector of society, anti-pathetic to the values by which a large part of the nation lives. De-industrialisation, however "logical" will be depicted and felt as an attack on the most deprived area.

It is worth recalling what Baldwin said on a similar occasion in 1925: "We believe in the justice of the Bill—but we are not going to push our political advantage home at a moment like this... we stand for peace, for the removal of suspicion in the country. We want to create an atmosphere in which the people can come together."

It is almost uncanny that Disraeli foresaw what might happen in 1868. "In a progressive country, change is constant, and the great question is not whether you should resist change which is inevitable, but whether that change should be carried out in deference to the manners, customs, laws and traditions of a people, or whether it should be carried out in deference to abstract principle and arbitrary general doctrines. The one is a national system, the other... a philosophical system. I have always considered that the Tory Party was the national party of England. It is not formed of a combination of oligarchs and philosophers who practise on the sectarian prejudices of a portion of the people."

Clashes between personalities reflect much older antagonisms. Before 1914 Sir H. Llewellyn Smith argued that to create a Ministry of Labour would be to port into central government

Ernest Bevin set up a seven-a-side consultative council which worked through the war



the decisions between capital and labour since it would attract the affinity of trade unions seeking to counteract the natural affinity of bankers with the Treasury and of industrialists with the Board of Trade. These divisions exist today between civil servants as much as ministers. But what generates a different sort of trouble is that the Prime Minister is no longer a habitual broker between the two sides but appears firmly allied to the Treasury and the Department of Industry.

Is it possible that a breathing space will allow the Cabinet majority to think again about the deep commitment of men like Mr. Len Murray or Sir John Mervin to interdependence, and about the threat posed to them as much as to government by centrifugal forces whether from the small business lobby or militant shop stewards?

There could be no sharper contrast than that between the judiciously cool language of TUC leaders who are used to dealing with government and an ill-considered baying for "victory" which ignores essential facts about the trade union movement.

Profound structural changes in the size and composition of trade unions in the 1970s, expansion of the TUC's recent leadership and its often messy, inarticulate behaviour. It has, however, always operated best when on the defensive. Though it lost the battle during the General Strike in 1926 it won the war against a concerted policy of wage-cutting. Like a long spring it is flaccid when extended, stronger and more resilient the more it is depressed.

This is not to pre-judge the new Employment Bill in what ever form, but rather to point out that in the interest of national harmony it would not be inappropriate to take up Mr. Callaghan's advice about consultation. One of the most carefully judged pieces of declaratory legislation passed by a Conservative Government, the Public Order Bill, which effectively castrated the British Fascists, succeeded in the tricky field of civil liberties because it was issued after wide discussion and was operated on a basis of trust and inter-party consent.

Tory ministers have in the past talked about the importance of consultation rather than legislation—treated between potential bodies, contained by custom and self-interest, in preference to precise rules applied to continually changing situations.

But it is not enough to emphasize the need to calm the passions of the moment, to threaten contingency planning for civil emergency. Recent opinion polls have reinforced a now familiar paradox that majorities of more than 75 per cent in favour of limiting aggressive trade unions' strike behaviour can co-exist with similar majorities who believe that unions "are essential to protect workers' interests".

(MORI Poll, Sept 1978 and Feb 1979.) The difference cannot wholly be blamed on the behaviour of strikers in the 1978-79 winter. Patterns of trade union behaviour have changed little in this century. It is worth quoting Winston Churchill in that context: "Trade union organisation is very important in the more moderate its officials

are, the less representative it is; but it is the only organization with which the Government can deal. The curse of trade unionism is that there is not enough of it, and it is not highly enough developed."

Any government has the right to expect an institution like the TUC or CBI to fulfil a certain political duty. Without opening up the great constitutional question of the legitimate role in politics (an issue which has been fudged here for half a century but faced in Germany and Sweden) it is fair to claim that such duties include representation of important sections of opinion during the process of economic and social planning. All views are not, of course, equally valid but all points of view are valuable in a democracy sustained by consent.

When the new law is passed, the Government could take this opportunity of defining what it sees as the proper political function of the TUC and CBI and consider taking Churchill's advice by providing aid by funding these bodies, not necessarily equally, so that they can fulfil their duty, enabling them, without strings, to run adequate research departments, training programmes, and regional organizations.

The TUC and CBI could be given greater access to basic information such as the Treasury forecasting models or whatever other material informs economic decisions. Such moves require a proper forum. Ideas of an "industrial parliament" suggests corporatism and the subordination of Parliament, but the seven-a-side joint consultative councils under Ernest Bevin which worked after 1940 through the war accomplished an enormous amount. The National Economic Development Council now established in shadow—could if re-constituted recapture some of that lost consensus.

Is the time right now? Most doom watchers are discussing the size and design of the last ditch, not the trench from which to make the last stand; but it will be tragic if a government with a sufficient majority lapses into frenetic firefighting like its predecessors.

Keith Middlemas

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Daring men in their yellow flying machines

A unit of the Royal Air Force, whose members have won more than 100 decorations for personal gallantry in peacetime, celebrates a silver jubilee today. Celebrates it, however, perhaps the wrong word to use because the unit is No. 22 Squadron, part of the nation's helicopter rescue organization. It cannot hold anything approaching the RAF's usual idea of a party to mark the 25th anniversary of the day in 1955 when it was re-formed (after earlier disbandment) in the search and rescue role and equipped with some of the earliest of the now familiar yellow helicopters which fly around the coasts and among the mountains for the most part assisting civilians who are in some sort of trouble.

One of the reasons militating against a squadron party is that No. 22's five constituent flights are spread out at bases between Fifehire and Devonshire. The other is that at any given time two-thirds of its aircrew members are either on tea-minute or 60-minute notice to fly, and therefore may not (and do not want to) drink alcohol.

The present commanding officer, Squadron Leader Paddy Hayes, says therefore, that the occasion will have to be marked in a rather muted manner.

Number 22 Squadron was in fact the second RAF unit to be given the helicopter rescue role in the United Kingdom. Another squadron, No. 275, was formed in April 1953, but for obscure reasons twice changed its title first to 238 Squadron, then to 302 Squadron.

Number 22 Squadron was re-formed at Thorney Island near Portsmouth under command of Squadron Leader Paul Bowry in 1955. Its "C" flight was formed at Valley, Anglesey in October of the same year and has stayed there ever since. Because its location on one of the biggest training bases in the air force is surrounded by sea and mountains this flight nearly always comes top in the annual league tables of lives saved, recording its 2,000th rescue in



Sergeant Eric Smith of 22 Squadron going down to rescue survivors from the French trawler Jeanne Goigny aground on rocks near Land's End in November 1962. Sergeant Smith was awarded the George Medal for "tenacious courage and utter disregard of his own safety."

1978. (The only thing approaching an "ace system" in the peacetime air force is based on lives saved rather than on "kills".)

The official role of the two RAF Search and Rescue squadrons formed in the 1950s was to aid ditched and downed aircraft of whom there were a great many in those early days of fast jet flying. Both the RAF and Royal Navy had by then proved the value of the helicopter as a life-saver in Malaysia and Korea and occasionally in the United Kingdom.

Very soon, however, the public were calling on them to aid civilians in trouble and the proportion of civilian to "military" rescues gradually rose to its present 90 per cent, with both the RAF and the Navy, plus two civilian companies now providing an extensive public service which, the taxpayer gets at a bargain price, partly because the two armed forces much prefer rescuing people to practising with dummies and oil drums.

Statistics for 1978 are expected to show that well over 1,000 civilians are indebted to helicopter crews either for their lives or at least for rapid extrication from uncomfortable or painful circumstances.

No. 22 Squadron's first civilian rescue took place on August 8, 1955, when a Mr Robert Read and his 10-year-old son David got into trouble in a small boat below the cliffs near Birling Gap in Sussex.

A Whirlwind helicopter crew from Thorney Island consisting of Flight Lieutenant Keith Foster (pilot), Flight Sergeant Grant Scroggins (navigator) and Aircraftman Williams (winchman) responded to a call from an East Sussex police car whose crew could see the pair's plight from the cliffs but could do little to help.

Aircraftman Williams (in those days helicopter winchmen were not, as now, entitled to the minimum aircrew rank of sergeant) was dropped into heavy surf on the end of a wire, waded ashore across a reef of rocks, and lifted father and son to safety.

The squadron puts its grand total of rescues now at well over 5,000. It recorded 313 civilian and 16 military rescues last year by its flights now based at Leuchars (Fifehire), Leconfield (Yorkshire), Manston (Kent), Chivenor (Devon) and Valley (Anglesey). Until four years ago all RAF

rescue flights were equipped with single-engined Whirlwind helicopters, including those which often operated in most difficult terrain in extreme weather conditions and it is regarded within the service as an eternal tribute to the engine manufacturers (Pratt & Whitney in the early days, and Rolls-Royce after the change over to jets) and to the often uncommitted ground crews, that not one single accident involving injury ever occurred during a rescue operation.

Three of 22 Squadron's flights—those at Leuchars, Manston and Valley now have twin-engined Westland Sea Kings, the other four SAR flights in 202 Squadron have the massive all-weather twin-engined Sea Kings. The 22 Squadron flights at Leconfield and Chivenor have to make do with their still much loved and trusted Whirlwinds for a few more years because the defence budget does not provide for any more new rescue helicopters after the £20m which was eventually spent on the long overdue fleet of Sea Kings which came into service last year.

The winning of more than 100 gallantry decorations by one squadron in war was never before regarded as a "good show" in RAF slang in peacetime it is doubtful if it has been equaled anywhere in the world. One of 22 Squadron's winchmen, Master Air Loadmaster John Donnelly, now an instructor at Valley, has won the Air Force Medal twice.

The squadron badge which bears the motto in French, *Preux et Audacieux* (Gallant and Daring) was approved after 22 Squadron had served in Malta during the Abyssinian crisis of 1934 when equipped with biplane Vickers Villiers torpedo bombers. The somewhat baffling centrepiece of a Maltese Cross surrounded by the mathematical "pi" sign was devised because it was then under command of No. 7 Bomber Group and its pilots had a reputation for the amount of low-flying over the latter formation's headquarters. As every schoolboy should know, pi is 22 over seven. The original motto seems to be as appropriate as ever, judging by the latest statistics.

John Chartres

The author's illustrated book *Helicopter Rescue is due in the autumn*, published by Ian Allan Ltd.

The dangerous gap for Italy's Christian Democrats

This fourteenth national congress of Italy's perpetually governing Christian Democrats looks so bleak that a bright and influential member of the party confided how he would like to go to sleep today and wake up in five days time when it is due to be over.

This will be the fourth Christian Democrat congress which will start with an uncertain outlook, and the first of the four to have no central theme on which the opposing sides can do battle. The congress must try and find a new secretary because the present one, Benigno Zaccagnini, is intent on leaving political life, the capital city, whose dreams of renewing the party, all behind him and go back to his home in Ravenna.

For a man who genuinely had little political ambition, he has

known heights of exhilaration and depths of gloomy pain that no other leader of this remarkable party has had to endure. He won the secretaryship at the last congress, to the happy surprise of his friends, though by a modest margin.

He became the symbol of the party's improvement with his honest face and remarkable appeal to the rank and file. His pole star and close friend was then chairman of the party, Signor Aldo Moro. When terrorists kidnapped Signor Moro and held him prisoner for nearly two months before murdering him, Signor Zaccagnini lived through the experience which has left deep marks on him through having had to keep the party firm in its resolve not to negotiate with the terrorists while his own human instincts, as well as the pleadings of the

Moro family, made inflexibility profoundly painful.

The terrorists who murdered Signor Zaccagnini on Tuesday were reviving that pain, and probably intended to, Signor Bachelet, too, was a friend of Signor Moro. He was highly considered at the Vatican and had been close to the late Pope Paul VI whose touch he greeted over the Moro tragedy now recognized as having been crucial in supporting Signor Zaccagnini at the time. It is said in the party that the Vatican has just now made an attempt to persuade Signor Zaccagnini to change his mind about going.

Despite the clear need to look for another secretary, the party is going into the congress without any agreement on the procedure to adopt in choosing the next one. Signor Zaccagnini was elected directly by the congress. His predecessors were appointed after the congress by the newly-elected national council. The outgoing secretary will open proceedings this afternoon by reading his report which will take some three hours.

There are at the moment three main candidates. The first is Signor Francesco Cossiga,

the present Prime Minister, who has a similar outlook to that of Signor Zaccagnini, namely the Moro philosophy. He is a European, convinced of the need for friendship with the United States (where he has a personal success last month) and ready to sign the collaboration of the Communists as well as the Socialists in governing the country.

Practically no one, however, in the Christian Democrat Party sees any likelihood of Communist participation in government for the near future. Signor Moro, on the actual day of his kidnapping, had brought them into the parliamentary majority supporting the Government, but no more. The international situation is now more complicated. The Communists themselves are following divided over Afghanistan as is over parliamentary support for the Christian Democrats, are now bluntly saying that the only alternatives which interest them are opposition or the ministries.

The second most likely candidate is Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the man whom Signor Zaccagnini so narrowly beat at the last national congress. He is absorbed by politics without re-

vealing much in the way of political further advance. His background is rather more conservative than that of Signor Cossiga and he is not liked by the Communists. A third candidate, Signor Flaminio Piccoli, succeeded Signor Moro in the chairmanship and would now like to have the more direct running of the party which the secretaryship offers. He is thought the least likely to win if congress once again directly elects the secretary.

And there is always the adroit Signor Giulio Andreotti. His present role is supposed to be that of cultivating a long-term ambition to succeed the present president of the republic and a short-term one of having a decisive influence on the alliances among the factions represented at the congress.

The party has ruled Italy for 35 years. The only break in its continuity is that a non-Christian Democrat prime minister is no longer ruled out. Before Signor Cossiga formed his Government, President Pertini did, in fact, invite the Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, to try his hand. He failed. But he accustomed people to the possibility, not that the Christian Democrats

show any sign of losing their position as the biggest party.

The real question facing the congress is difficult to define: it is that a congress without its own great issues must demonstrate to its own followers and to the country at large that the party possesses qualities of decision and foresight to meet the problems facing Italy which are, indeed, great issues.

There is no alternative to Christian Democrat ascendancy. The party needs internal change, especially among its seemingly perpetual holders of ministries. As one sharp observer put it, a series of a dozen or so heart attacks at the congress would help a lot. Terrorism, economic uncertainty, inflation, failing institutions, a dangerous gap between the government and the governed, all call for a fresh approach, much as Signor Zaccagnini had in mind one whole congress ago.

The worst impression that could be given would be one of post-political decisions of just keeping going, and the deputy who hoped to sleep through the next five days thought that is what would happen.

Peter Nichols

HONGKONG DIARY

Perhaps the Queen should abdicate in her favour...



spotter planes spy the fore-runners of a new influx.

In the camp that I saw, 9,000 people wait their turn for resettlement. The women and children are being educated and many of the men have jobs. There is plenty of work in Hongkong; indeed the boom in the construction industry is one of the reasons why the economy is running rather too hot.

For thousands of the people who have come in from China the dreamed-of good life has turned out to be years in squalid squatter blackspots and hard work in a dismal workshop. It is the sort of thing that some MPs rage at when they visit. They have a point. Hongkong has achieved much in public housing (two million live in government built flats) and the amazing new towns in the New Territories are bursting with like mushrooms. But housing targets have not been met and no doubt the government could do more, more quickly.

The great tower blocks, dressed overall in bright washing stuck on poles, are teaming with the Chinese are great washers (though the men are fearless spitters) and each morning pretty girls emerge in droves from the blocks, crisp-skirted and bandbox bright, heading for work. And Hongkong's middle name is work.

Any visitor has to come to terms with the contrasts and paradoxes of this pressure cooker place. People at the bottom of the heap live under cardboard roofs not so far from the golden halls of the Peninsula Hotel where cool ladies swirl. Lushery old rock-

show boys are reflected in the concave of Rolls-Royces, preposterous cars for such congested roads; yet Hongkong has a greater concentration of limos than almost any place on earth.

Many of the cars—some driven by men who made it from hawkers for such congested roads—have lucky number plates bought in government auctions. The figure 8 is especially fortunate in Chinese belief, and the man with number plate 8888 will have much luck.

It seems natural that planes should be more or less in the middle of Hongkong, on a finger of reclaimed land: the equivalent of jetliners touching down in Hyde Park. But it is one of the contrasts that Hongkong is not entirely, as it seems at first, a football crowd packed in an allotment. There are parts of the countryside with a dreamy and rhythmic quality and there are many quiet lovely islands where the pace is slow.

Meanwhile, back in the beehive, capitalism strides vigorously on. What will happen when the 99-year lease on most of the colony ends in 1997? Few worry about it. The Chinese have told businessmen to put their hearts in the country and Hongkong more porous and businesslike than the neighbouring districts of China. Better road and rail links with Canton are on the cards. Chinese banks and stores have a large stake in Hongkong, and as huge resource of expertise and money Hongkong has a role as pump primer for the Chinese economy. In any case China goes £1 million a day in foreign exchange from Hongkong. Colony is a word usually

avoided these days. And in almost all respects Hongkong is an ex-colony. It is like nowhere else, a piece of China family ably managed for its Chinese landlord by the British.

There is no prospect of any democratic grid seeming into the smoothly-running gearbox of a consulting bureaucracy. On the whole people like things the way they are; and China would not stand for radical change in any case.

Hongkong is being urged to put a more human face on its materialism and much of the old rampant corruption has been cleaned up. "Walk tall", say the television commercials, "report corruption."

For all its westernised aspects, Hongkong is China. It has a strong backbone of close-knit family life, traditional beliefs, cooking art, hard work and avoidance of authority. All but two per cent of the people are Chinese, pragmatic, a little pessimistic but not sentimental. It is the British who are sentimental about Hongkong, partly because it still evokes another era, partly because of its romance. Young men like it, of course, for its opportunities. "A place where you can create something and get on with the job", they say, brightly-eyed. The Chinese may not share the newcomers' sense of excitement, but it is an exciting and merry place, with its surging ferries, its sense of China, its steamy food stalls, pungent odours, secrets and stiches. And, in a place of little wealth, there is always business. The sale of nightgown to China is a £1m a year industry.

Trevor Fishlock

How to Feel Good about Making your Will.

HOW MANY times have you felt you wanted to help people in poor countries who are so much less fortunate than yourself?

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EUROPEAN BUDGET MARK TWO

In presenting its new proposals for the European Community's 1980 budget the Commission has taken account of the demands that were made by the members of the European Parliament last December when they rejected the previous draft. It has proposed a cut in agricultural spending and an increase in spending in other areas, such as the regional and social funds. The proposals do not go as far as the Parliament demanded, but it adopted they would mark a step in the right direction because they would begin the process of reducing the overwhelming share of the budget that is taken up by agriculture. This is something of great importance for Britain, which has received so little of the money lavished on the common agricultural policy, but also for the other members of the Community, who can have no interest in maintaining the present lopsided nature of the budget. If adopted, the proposals would allow the Parliament, fresh from last year's direct elections, exercising real influence over the Community's spending priorities.

Yesterday's presentation, however, was only the first move in what could be a long battle. The Commission's proposals now have to be discussed by the Council of Ministers, and there is every likelihood that they will be substantially changed. They will then go to the European Parliament, and the Parliament will almost certainly have to decide how hard it wants to fight for the sort of changes it was insisting on last December. Present indications are that the fighting spirit it showed then has died down somewhat, particularly among the Christian Democrats. This is partly a matter of losing the first flush of enthusiasm, partly of exposure to the farm lobbies, which have a long experience in the ways of influencing the Parliament. But the hope must be that when it comes to the point the Parliament will continue to insist on curbing the waste incurred by the common agricultural policy and taking account of other interests than those of the farm producers.

The Commission's proposals do not bear directly on Britain's demand for an immediate reduction in its own contribution to the Community budget. This is due to be discussed at next month's summit meeting, and there will be no difficulty in inserting whatever may be agreed then into the budget framework now proposed by the Commission. But it is clearly in Britain's long-term interest that the balance of expenditure in the budget should be shifted away from agriculture, even if slowly, and so it might be expected that Britain would support the line taken by the Commission when the issue comes to the Council of Ministers. The trouble is that Britain, like other members of the Community, faces conflicting pressures when it comes to agricultural prices, with the farmers pulling one way, and the consumers and taxpayers pulling another. It has already made objections to some of the price proposals which have been made

by the Commission for the coming agricultural year, and which are an integral part of the budget proposals as a whole. The Government should be careful not to allow concern for farming interests to stand in the way of the broader national interest, for that would weaken the effect of its insistence on reform. The crisis over the 1980 budget has not so far had dire effects on the activities of the Community. There has been no approved budget since January 1, but the Community has been able to operate on the basis of monthly instalments representing one twelfth of last year's budget appropriations. As time goes by, however, it will become increasingly urgent to reach a solution, particularly in the second half of the year, when big expenditures have to be made under the common agricultural policy. The basic issues are two: how to curb agricultural spending, and what should be the relationship between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers when it comes to policy-making. For so long now, the Council of Agricultural Ministers has been able to set prices on its own, without much control even by their colleagues in the Finance Ministries. Now the Parliament, or at least some members of it, are trying to exert control, but the governments have failed to provide. The Parliament's powers are limited, but it has begun to have some effect, as the Commission's proposals show, and it is to be hoped that its nerve will hold.

then by President Tito and other devotees of the principle in Asia and Africa. At all times non-alignment has been a live subject in Indian thinking, especially so at last year's gathering of the non-aligned in Havana when Fidel Castro was thwarted in his attempt to make an attachment to the Russians comparable with the doctrine of non-alignment. This attempt to sweep the movement away from its independence failed. This points to the dividing line up to which Mrs Gandhi may make excuses for the Russians but at which her objection to their move into Afghanistan must stick. As an active leader of the argument for non-alignment she cannot accept Russian domination of a government in Afghanistan or the presence of Soviet troops. Mr Narasimha Rao, the Indian Foreign Minister, had the task of extracting from Mr Gromyko a promise of how soon and how speedily the troops would be withdrawn. But evidently no such promise was forthcoming. Mr Gromyko either would not or could not give it. But Mrs Gandhi must stick to her point. She must regard the demand for independence based on a reassertion of Islamic identity, voiced by the recent gathering in Islamabad, as entirely in keeping with the ideals of the non-aligned movement. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan betrays those ideals and cannot be accepted on that account.

MRS GANDHI'S STICKING POINT

On the face of it there seems some contradiction between the terse statement issued after Mr Gromyko's three days of talks in New Delhi and the embroidery on that offered to the press yesterday by the Indian spokesman. The official joint statement said nothing about Afghanistan. In his public after dinner speech Mr Gromyko seemed to imply that he had come to help India solve the regional troubles that had blown up and that were being unnecessarily prolonged by Pakistan's refusal to hold talks with Mr Babrak Karmal whereby the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan could again be one of peace and friendship. The lack of any reference to Afghanistan is so conspicuous that it can hardly be covered up by the spokesman's charges against the Americans and his rebuttal of those made against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Evidently there was some strong disagreement over the Soviet position there.

The questions raised by Mr Gromyko's visit and, more generally, those raised by Indian reactions to the Afghan crisis are more easily answered if one looks back at the past history of India's "leaning to one side" in respect of the Russians. It is not a recent phenomenon. It can be traced back to the thirties when India was looking to the left in its struggle for independence and naturally sided with the view of the Soviet Union

current in those days among the British left. Mr Krishna Menon might be instanced as the godfather of this leaning; Mrs Gandhi would have absorbed it in her Oxford days. The tendency has persisted in government circles in New Delhi ever since. The point, however, is not simply the ancestry of such opinions from Nehru's time onwards, but the fact that in origin the opinions were second-hand and theoretical, deriving not from any direct relations with Russia or experience in India. With the passage of time no such direct experience has modified them. The division of Europe, or the Berlin wall, or Hungary, or even Czechoslovakia have never had, for Indians, the meaning that they have had for the West. They were too distant, too far from Indian experience to bring about an evolution in attitudes that were inert. The result was that India's ability in the cold war of the fifties to point to American faults and excuse Russian ones has been prolonged, to some extent by the Sino-Soviet split, where India was aligned with one side and Pakistan with the other, but essentially because the emotions had never been re-directed by meaningful experience.

By contrast, non-alignment has been a cherished Indian policy, blessed in its early days by the Bandung conference of 1955, over which Mr Nehru presided, and constantly redefined in the changing circumstances since

then by President Tito and other devotees of the principle in Asia and Africa. At all times non-alignment has been a live subject in Indian thinking, especially so at last year's gathering of the non-aligned in Havana when Fidel Castro was thwarted in his attempt to make an attachment to the Russians comparable with the doctrine of non-alignment. This attempt to sweep the movement away from its independence failed. This points to the dividing line up to which Mrs Gandhi may make excuses for the Russians but at which her objection to their move into Afghanistan must stick. As an active leader of the argument for non-alignment she cannot accept Russian domination of a government in Afghanistan or the presence of Soviet troops. Mr Narasimha Rao, the Indian Foreign Minister, had the task of extracting from Mr Gromyko a promise of how soon and how speedily the troops would be withdrawn. But evidently no such promise was forthcoming. Mr Gromyko either would not or could not give it. But Mrs Gandhi must stick to her point. She must regard the demand for independence based on a reassertion of Islamic identity, voiced by the recent gathering in Islamabad, as entirely in keeping with the ideals of the non-aligned movement. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan betrays those ideals and cannot be accepted on that account.

MRS THATCHER'S MODEL SON

Mr Mark Thatcher has his own life to lead. If his vision of it includes driving racing cars by courtesy of the manufacturers of English contraceptives or Japanese textiles, that is for him. At any rate it puts him at the get-up-and-go end of the modern world. But he should not delude himself with the belief that his sponsor's interest in him is unconnected with the fact that he is the Prime Minister's son. Nor need he take so tragic a view of being caught up in a media event as to suppose that he is being hounded into evil. If he wants to live abroad, he has himself supplied the more solid reason of reducing his burden of taxation—that motive at least should meet with his mother's approval.

The drawback from the Prime Minister's point of view in this sudden burst of notoriety for Mark is that it slightly dents her dignity. Her son is no part of her political entourage. She is not proposing to settle him in some public sinecure in the manner of the eighteenth-century or to give him the Washington Embassy in the manner of the twentieth century. If public life were wholly fair, which it isn't, everybody would be content to say that Mark's business ventures—he is 26—were no reflection on Mother. The trouble is that families, whether royal or presidential or ministerial or episcopal, do not function in the public domain as if they consisted of unconnected units.

When Mr Billy Carter proffers his views on the Arab-Jewish question people notice whose

brother he is and quick footwork is required from presidential aides. When Captain Mark Phillips advertises, or whatever it is he does for British Leyland in connection with show jumping, he is recognized as a member by marriage of the royal family, however great his personal distinction in the saddle. And when Mr Mark Thatcher models for Kanebo textiles he is seen as the son of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whatever his qualifications as a racing driver may be held to be. Labour MPs who sit for the cotton industry, and whose constituents are clamouring for protection against foreign imports, make a meal of the Thatcher promotion of Japanese sports-wear. And who would grudge them their bit of fun?

international musical stature of Great Britain, nor will they encourage new audiences. London has been the musical centre of the world for a decade, the pinnacle of a performance, companies and composers acclaimed around the world.

Could the Post Office not use the potential of the September "Music" stamps to better effect than simply to show interest in our forebears? What of the Proms, the new works of composers, festivals, operas? Far from dead, music in Britain is looking to the future.

Yours faithfully,
IAN CADDY,
57 Iwerca Court, W8,
January 29.

Abortion Bill tactics
From Dr T. P. Lister
Sir, Whilst having sympathy with Sir, whilst having sympathy with the main message in today's letter from Mr R. Rhodes James, MP (February 13), I was disappointed to read that "Organized" letters, read that "mass lobbies do not impress MPs."

These are the traditional methods by which large numbers of ordinary people endeavour to publicize their views and indicate the need for justice and indicate the need for social reform. Our elected representatives would do well to realize

that such communication may be equally thoughtful, sincere and well informed as are individual letters. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
T. P. LISTER,
The Hill Farm Cottage,
Tun Hill, Westwell,
Near Ashford,
Kent.

Travelling to school

From Mr D. R. Townley
Sir, A generally accepted principle of travelling expenses payments is that where the travelling is compulsory the compelling agent will pay. This is true of occupations where travel is required (commercial travellers, school inspectors, etc) and it is true of the Armed Forces. As children are compelled to go to school it would seem right that their travel expenses be paid by the local authority. Where children have a choice of a near or far school, then a case can be made for paying for travel only to the near school, but in every other case the authorities have a clear duty to pay. Yours faithfully,
D. R. TOWNLEY,
3 Fairhaven,
Pursey Hill, SW13,
February 11.

Trade unions and the rule of law

From Mr J. R. I. King
Sir, I know one shouldn't get upset by what one reads in newspapers, but your leader page today (February 8) has left my intellect stunned.

The members of the House of Lords in their decisions in the steel case have (a) strongly reasserted what they consider the meaning of section 13(1) of the Trades Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, to be, (b) made it clear that the House will adhere to its previous decisions in this area of the law, and (c) re-informed the Court of Appeal that it should follow decisions of the House.

It is thus ridiculous that you should say in your leader: "If there is one consolation to be drawn from a reading of the reasons provided by the law lords, it is that they too appear to see strongly that Parliamentary intervention is necessary to save them from further confusion," that Mr Cripps should write "... this strike has produced the nationally undesirable result that at this present time no one knows what the final result in the courts will be..." and that Mr Blum should write "The decision of the House of Lords in Dupont Steels Ltd and Others v Sirs and Others is a law brought into prominence the law of the lottery." For a newspaper whose philosophy is wedded to law and order and the rule of law your support of the Court of Appeal in the present case is incomprehensible. Judges have authority to everyone else. Yours faithfully,
J. R. I. KING,
31 Croydon Road, SE20.

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin (February 14) mocks me for establishing the fact that the "golden formula" of our trade union law (act done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute) has remained the basis of trade union liberties since 1875 in the criminal law of conspiracy, and since 1906 in the civil law (especially on interference with contracts). He regards its relative antiquity alone as ground for jest. Perhaps he would make the same view of Magna Carta.

The central point is that a heavy burden of proof rests on those who wish to restrict trade unionists' rights in the civil law to what they were in 1905. Mr Levin does not discharge that burden by quoting Sir Andrew Stoddart's view in 1968 about a quite different topic

Double appeal in steel

From Mr G. V. Bull
Sir, I did not think that *The Times* would lose its nerve. It has done so twice in the steel strike today (February 11) appears to be a volte-face. Nothing is clearer, as has been repeatedly said, than that strikes hindering or ditching the country's recovery will continue as long as they appear to succeed. I cannot say what I had thought you had been saying since the strike began, you seem to be advocating today policies which will do this very thing. I hope against hope that I have misunderstood you. Yours faithfully,
G. V. BULL,
21 Sydenham Hill, SE26,
February 11.

From the Reverend D. A. Wood

Sir, There was a time when steel making was a profession. Some management and workers are determined to work together to continue that prosperity in private firms. The nationalized steel corporation has proved its wasteful worthlessness.

Notes for a concertgoer

From Mr Mark Goulden
Sir, The programme notes of Ates Orga may well be as convoluted and abstruse as the dissonances of Schoenberg himself, but they hardly merit the offensive castigation which Bernard Levin chooses to administer (*The Times*, February 13), nor do they justify his schoolboy parodying of Mr Orga's unusual name.

It so happens that Ates Orga is not only a musicologist of some distinction, but he is also an accomplished pianist and the author of several notable books on music. It also happens that, since he is of Turkish extraction, his name actually is Ates Orga. Whether Bernard Levin's parody is justified or not, it is unabbreviated parodying is something that only the sage of Gray's Inn Road himself is able to disclose. He may be on dangerous ground here: he certainly is when he indulges in his fifth-form prank of constructing some vulgar anagrams from Mr Orga's eight-letter name.

This might easily backfire on St Bernard, for "Goat-arse" could promptly reply with the somewhat less scatological but much more disarming "Dear Sir, I am sure some of your more experienced crossword solvers could come up with many more piquant anagrams derived from the familiar signature of your capacious commentator. Yours faithfully,
MARK GOULDEN,
10 Lowndes Square, SW1.

Guy Liddell

From Mr D. W. A. Mure
Sir, In view of my having twice been mentioned by name in your correspondence columns in the course of the recent controversy about the character and conduct of the late Guy Liddell, perhaps you will permit me a general observation on this subject.

In an issue of *The Observer* of January 20 last, Andrew Boyle quoted the late Guy Liddell as saying that Liddell joined with Anthony Blunt in an attempt to dissuade Rees from reporting to MI5 his "conviction of Burgess" intended defection to Russia. Either this is true or it is not. Blunt says it is not.

If Blunt is wrong and Liddell was guilty of impeding the course of justice on one occasion, then surely, it is permissible to question his conduct on others. I am Sir, yours faithfully,
D. W. A. MURE,
55 Ifield Road, SW10.

(the enforcement of collective agreements as contracts, which is not now being proposed by the Government).

As for Professor Atiyah (February 12), he rightly reminds us that appellate decisions in the courts always include elements of "policy". But he erroneously concludes that such judgments therefore cannot be called "wrong".

The decision of the Court of Appeal about "furtherance of a trade dispute" in the steel dispute was so "wrong" that counsel for the steel employers (in whose favour the Court of Appeal had found) told the House of Lords, unprompted, that he could not support his case by relying upon any one of the reasons contained in the three judgments in the Court of Appeal.

The law lords have restated the law on trade union rights. That some (not all) law lords find these rights "repugnant" in modern society is scarcely a reason for trade unionists tamely to accept that their rights should revert to 1905. Nor will a deliberate attempt to "take on the unions" by introducing retrograde legislation solve any one of our industrial difficulties.

There is an alternative road to greater industrial peace. It is a more difficult way than the path to confrontation heaved by the crude swing of legal axes to cut away the thicket of legal precedent. It is the hard road of genuine conciliation and consultation, seeking answers to the social causes not the symptoms of industrial disputes. The goal is to be sought not in court rooms and prisons, but around negotiating tables.

Did we learn nothing from the disastrous experience of 1971 to 1974?

Yours sincerely,
WEDDERBURN OF CHARLTON,
Professor of Commercial Law,
(London School of Economics in the University of London),
29 Woodside Avenue, N6,
February 14.

From Mr R. B. Charles

Sir, I hope that Mr Prior will think carefully about the title of his new Bill so as to convey to everyone its real purpose and not simply adopt the misleading wording to the present Bill on Employment Protection legislation.

I suggest "The Right to Work Act". Yours faithfully,
R. B. CHARLES,
Manor House, Horningsham,
Warminster, Wiltshire,
February 12.

ness. As a giant organization it is bleeding us, the taxpayers, to death, but there are sections of it which can produce without loss and thereby recreate employment, self-respect, and new life in areas where people are becoming desperate. In these areas steel cooperatives formed from experienced members of management and workers could save the day without violating the socialist ideology which created the state-owned giant. Every local steel cooperative should be allowed two years to become viable.

If management and workers can stand together in Hadfields in order to survive, surely the same can happen in South Wales if the Government will free us from top-heavy management and committee-ridden unions. English people as in times past want freedom to succeed without the clock back to the days of union and lower classes. Yours faithfully,
D. ABELL WOOD,
The Church of the Holy Family,
The Pastoral Centre,
Citadel East,
Newcastle upon Tyne 12.

Race in the 1981 census

From Miss Usha Prashar
Sir, The debate on the inclusion of a question on ethnic origin in the 1981 census has raised several issues which need to be drawn together and assessed.

There is no doubt that information is necessary if discrimination and disadvantage is to be combated and positive policies are to be developed to cater for special needs of minorities. Research carried out over the past fifteen years (much of it based on the 1966 and 1971 Census data and financed by Government) has shown that discrimination and disadvantage are widespread.

Major strides may not have been made to tackle these social ills, but both Labour and Conservative governments have accepted the need for policies to deal with racial discrimination and disadvantage. There is, therefore, continuing need for information which can be used both to promote racial justice and equality of opportunity and to encourage both central and local government to implement relevant policies.

It is the best method or are there other methods of collecting this information? Information can be collected through surveys but only at a very high cost and with technical difficulties. Moreover, representative samples of sections of black minorities can only adequately be based on a census-derived information.

Surveys, therefore, are inadequate; and lack of census data would make specific research projects harder and more expensive. In the event it is unlikely that such research would be done. It is possible to devise a question which would be both acceptable and gather the required information. It is possible to devise such a question. For example the question used by the National Dwelling and Housing Survey

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Another anthem for doomed youth?

From Mr Stephen Smith
Sir, Two members of the Bow Group (February 8) advocate basic military training for the nation's young men as some kind of "insurance". As one of the young men Messrs Stephen and Smith have in mind, and having some appreciation of the capabilities of modern weapons from my work, I feel I must reply to their misconceived proposal.

A European war today would be totally different from the wars many people remember, such as 1939-45. In any future war there would be no warning time available to train conscripts to any degree of proficiency, and it would be fought using sophisticated sensors, enormous concentrations of firepower, chemical weapons (such as nerve gases) and continuous intense air attack, and all of this is without the use of a single nuclear weapon, which are almost certain to be needed eventually.

To survive in this environment

calls for great technical and professional skill, which comes only with lengthy and thorough training. The Army refer to themselves as "the professionals" with good reason: we need a well-equipped professional force, not an amateur conscript rabble which would be shattered physically and psychologically within a couple of days.

If this nation's defences are weak they must be strengthened with regard to quality, not just quantity. In common with the vast majority of young people in this country I do not intend to be taught just to hold a rifle and salute and then be sent to a certain death because of some romanticized memory of a type of warfare which is no longer relevant.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SMITH,
21 Cedar Avenue,
Shirley,
Hampshire.
February 10.

Cases for police custody

From Dr F. D. Skidmore

Sir, Mr Meacher (February 5) evinces an argument for greater use of hospital detoxification centres for the acute care of drunks, to avoid the serious dangers to the patient of officer failure to recognize cerebral or other injury and illness in an intoxicated prisoner.

Any surgeon, or police officer, can see the fallacy of this argument. The enraged inebriate does not lie calmly in a hospital bed. Where ever he is he is in need of custodial restraint. Frail patients with whom he is confined are at risk of assault. Windows and stairs are the avenues to suicide and injury.

Staff—large male nurses, let alone 19-year-old girl probationers—are unwilling to care for such social misfits. One of the reasons why medical staff do not apply to work in casualty departments is the verbal and physical abuse they suffer from the drunken offender who alone is responsible for his predicament.

Solitary lockup in small rooms without movable furniture or items which could be used for self-inflicted injury is the safest and most humane means of controlling the unruly drunk. Drugs or physical restraint are downright dangerous. The police surveillance of the man in cell is the best answer. Given that Chief Constables insist that the police surgeon be called immediately in the event of anxiety about a prisoner's condition.

We have to remember that the individual, his relatives and his friends have all failed to control the drinking and temper of the person who's night out ends in police custody. The Health Service may advise the alcoholic but should not be custodian of the drunkard. Yours faithfully,
F. D. SKIDMORE,
University Hospital of South Man-
chester, 13th Floor, 13th Floor,
West Didsbury,
Manchester.

Help for BL

From Sir James Redmond
Sir, Do we really want British Leyland to succeed? If we do, why not provide some practical help and encouragement?

For example, the State of Ontario, concerned about unemployment in its car industry, has cancelled the taxes on buying new, locally manufactured cars during the first quarter of 1980. Yours faithfully,
JAMES REDMOND,
43 Cholmeley Crescent, N.6,
February 13.

appears to be both adequate and acceptable. No doubt any question which is used for a national census on this issue is likely to have rough edges but it is not beyond human ingenuity to devise a suitable question.

In principle we have always believed that information about minorities should be collected but have been critical of the way the issue has been handled and the questions which have been tested. We have provided a forum for public debate and now feel that we should make our own views clear.

Part of the muddle and confusion has occurred because the Government handled the issue inefficiently both before and after the White Paper, 1981 Census of Population was issued. No clear explanation was given as to the kind of data required and why. The White Paper provided only but a vague explanation. The mystique surrounding the issue fuelled the fears of the minorities further and in the circumstances it is not surprising that Haragey was such a negative exercise.

The fears cannot be dismissed lightly and if the Government's commitment to "equality before the law" is a sincere commitment then it should assure the minorities not merely by rhetoric but by action.

Now if the Government decides, on the basis of the Haragey experience and inadequate information, not to ask a question it would be a serious omission which would have undesirable repercussions for years to come. This would have resulted mainly because the Government failed firstly to assure minorities and secondly to clearly think through the issue.

Yours faithfully,
USHA PRASHAR,
Director,
The Runnymede Trust,
62 Chandos Place, WC2,
February 11.

Rhodesian masterworks

From Sir Roland Penrose
Sir, In her article of February 9 on Rhodesian art, your reporter Geraldine Norman speaks at length of the surprising rebirth of sculpture which happened before UDI thanks to the enthusiasm and encouragement of Frank McEwen and a few friends. Unfortunately she does not mention its origin among the Shona people. She stresses the prevalence of soapstone carvings which are easy to produce and in general gravitate towards a debased form of "airport art". This cannot compare with the hardstone serpentine—sculptures

Individual and State

From Professor G. C. Allen, FBA

Sir, In my view, Sir Ian Gilmour in his article of February 13 on the balance between the individual and the State has failed to address himself to the really important issue.

Today the conflict is not between those who advocate laissez-faire and those who press for ever-increasing scope for the State's activities. The conflict is about the purpose and nature of the State's intervention.

Compare the economic performance (and the standard of welfare) of countries where the State has given priority to economic efficiency and has used its power to encourage the enterprise with those of countries like our own, where the claims of efficiency have been disregarded and where policy has been directed towards supporting the status quo and subsidizing failures. Yours faithfully,
G. C. ALLEN,
180 Ritchie Court,
380 Salisbury Road,
Oxford.

Unlettered

From Mr A. R. Malachowski

Sir, No doubt many of your philosophically-inclined readers were amused by Mr Clifton's domestic resurrection (February 11) of the kind of problem Russell attempted to alleviate with his theory of types.

In short, Russell sought to evade paradoxes apparent in the notion of classes (specifically the problem of predicating a class of itself or not—it is a member of itself) by positing a hierarchical principle whereby objects are classified according to their logical type. The definition of type is tied to the ability to satisfy propositional functions of the same order and, on this account, the class and its members must be of different "types".

Even if he sympathises with the main objections to Russell's theory and, even if he has devised his own strong objection, I believe Mr Clifton will find it difficult to reason otherwise, if she maintains no more than that "unclassified", in connection with these examination grades, means "not subsumed under any of the grades A, B, C, D, and E".

Furthermore, she can point out that her father is confusing, otherwise clear instance of classification by appealing to an abstract, unspecified concept of classification in general. A would-be player who is not selected for "the team" can neither be expected to account for his exclusion nor can he/she be nevertheless a member of the team comprising those who are not members of "the team".

Concede, Mr Clifton, before your daughter turns into a philosopher!

Yours faithfully,
A. R. MALACHOWSKI,
661 Suffolk Square,
Norwich.

A father's rights

From Mr Maurice Bilmes

Sir, There is need for regulating the responsibilities of spouses whose marriages have broken down, but not exclusively on the basis described in Mrs John Tacon's letter which was published in your edition of January 11.

Hard cases make bad law. The example quoted in your correspondent's letter seems a trifle confused. If a wife leaves her husband for another man, taking the children with her, then presumably she no longer lives in the matrimonial home and her rights of occupation terminate with vacation assuming the house is in the husband's sole name.

Care and control must be distinguished from custody. If the parents are in agreement over their children's future the Court will rarely refuse a joint custody order. Access will never be refused by the Court unless it can be shown to be contrary to the interests of the child, a rare circumstance.

The real injustice which the legislators could hardly have forecast was the inverted Robin Hood judgement in the Wachtel case in 1973. The Court until quite recently would not make adjustments for the conduct of a claimant in financial disputes unless the behaviour of that party was "gross and obvious". This need was canvassed with admirable clarity in Mr Peter George's letter which appeared in your issue dated June 6, 1978. Yours faithfully,
MAURICE BILMES,
Edwin Cope and Calder Woods,
Solicitors,
2 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Abstain omen?

From Mr Tim Cheshire
Sir, At whose behest were the thirteenth Winter Olympic Games officially opened on the thirteenth day of the month? Yours faithfully,
TIM CHESHIRE,
35 Colehill Lane, SW6,
February 14.

Storm cones
hoisted over
windy city,
page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

هكزامن الاصيل

Atlas Copco
compressed air systems.
A force you can turn
into profit.

Stock markets
FT Index 473.9 down 4.3
FT Gilts 66.97 down 0.08

Sterling
£23130 up 50 points
Index 73.3 up 0.3

Dollar
Index 85.2 up 0.1

Gold
\$667.5 down \$27.5

Money
3-mth sterling 17½-17¾
3-mth Euro \$ 14½-14¾
6-mth Euro \$ 14½-14¾

IN BRIEF

Europcar in bid for Godfrey Davis

Motor group Godfrey Davis has revealed the Paris-based Europcar is behind the approach to buy its United Kingdom, Dutch and Spanish daily rental and chauffeur-driven car hire businesses.

Midland Bank Industrial Investments has agreed to take a minority holding in the car hire operation if the deal goes through. The rental business accounts for around half of Davis's annual profits, and is thought to be worth between £10m and £20m.

Dow 50pc of Cromarty
Dow Chemical has confirmed that it has bought a 50 per cent stake in Cromarty Petroleum, part of the Daniel K. Ludwig, worldwide empire. Last week, Dow applied for outline planning permission from the Highland Regional Council, to build a £150m gas separation plant and downstream petrochemical complex at the site owned by Cromarty Petroleum on Cromarty Firth, north-east Scotland.

£5m Euroloan
Cleveland Bridge and Engineering is to borrow £5m over 10 years at 10.05 per cent from the European Investment Bank towards the £20m it is spending on a new steel cutting, forming and welding works at Darlington, Co Durham, expected to employ 925.

Chrysler prospects
Mr Lee A. Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, said in a telephone interview with the New York Times that the firm might not need any of the emergency public financing approved by the United States Congress last year.

£100m EEC loan
The European Economic Community said in Brussels it would lend the South of Scotland Electricity Board £100m to help finance a nuclear power plant in Torness, East Lothian.

Pound stronger
Sterling rose sharply in late trading yesterday to reach its best closing levels since last summer. Against a basket of currencies, the pound rose to 73.3 per cent of its end 1979 value, from 73 per cent on Wednesday. Its dollar value rose by 1 cent to \$2.3130.

Stalemate in Paris
Talks on export credits between Western industrialized nations and Japan ended in Paris yesterday. They were held under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. No agreement was reached.

Aerospace record
British aerospace industry exported goods worth £1,269m in 1979, nearly £100m up on the total for the previous year. This was the ninth year in succession in which the industry established a new export record.

Wall Street down
The Dow Jones industrial average lost 10.07 to 893.77 as turnover slowed to 50.54m shares from yesterday's 65.23m. SDR-\$ was 1.31891 and SDR-£ was 0.571749.

CBI calls for tax cuts to benefit lower paid in next Budget

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Tax cuts to aid lower paid workers are the unexpected main ingredient in the Confederation of British Industry's Budget proposals being put to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The CBI wants the Government to allocate more than half the £1,500m it estimates it can afford in overall tax cuts to raising personal allowances. This would remove about 500,000 of the poorest paid workers from income tax altogether and give below average wage-earners an extra £2 to £3 per week.

Revenue to pay for tax concessions could be raised by economies in government spending, disposal of public assets and a cut in EEC contributions. The CBI, whose recommendations are expected to have a strong influence on Treasury thinking, advocates no increase in duties on alcohol, petrol and tobacco because of the effect this could have on inflation.

Pressure for the emphasis in the proposals to be allocated to lower paid workers came from regional employers during last month's meeting of the CBI policy-making council. CBI officials meeting Sir Geoffrey Howe, on Monday, will argue that tax cuts would help to restore the incentive to work. Sir John Hedges Green, CBI's president, said yesterday: "We wanted to concentrate the available resources in what we believe is the most effective way rather than to spread them thinly".

He added that "Nobody is going to be flush with money this year". It had been expected that the CBI would call for more tax cuts to help middle managers this year. However, while continuing to express great concern about this group, the CBI view is that improved pay for managers should come directly from companies.

Subsidiary budget proposals recommend a review of tax

COST OF CBI PROPOSALS FOR TAX REDUCTIONS

	1980-81 (£m)
7½ per cent real increase in personal allowances (over and above statutory adjustment for inflation)	900
Capital tax proposals and abolition of investment income surcharge and Development Land Tax	200
Improvement in stock relief	300
Reliefs for smaller firms, etc.	100
	1500

relief on mortgage interest and stress there should be no immediate increase in the taxation of company cars.

Industrialists continue to regard the reduction in inflation as the overriding priority. Despite the acute difficulties being caused by high interest rates they are supporting the Government's fiscal and monetary policies.

The CBI is clearly hoping to influence pay settlements by recommending that increases in indirect taxes should be avoided as far as possible and that caution should be exercised in increasing charges for government-provided services. Other economic forecasting groups have almost all assumed that the Chancellor would raise up to £1,500m in revenue by increasing duties on tobacco, alcohol, petrol and road fund licences.

Apart from recommending a rise in personal allowances of 7½ per cent, more than the rate of inflation, the CBI package wants charges in capital transfer tax and capital gains tax. Both of these, it says, "are substantially harmful to businesses".

The CBI also calls for the abolition of the investment income surcharge, but some shareholders were offered a higher price than others.

In Westminster as well as in the City shock waves from Anglo-American's acquisition of 25 per cent in Gold Fields are still being felt. Four MPs have tabled questions asking whether powers are sufficient to prevent foreign companies surreptitiously building up stakes and whether the Government intends to take any action.

Two written questions have been tabled by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, asking the Secretary of State for Trade to note the Anglo deal and its effect on small shareholders and asking if any action is contemplated against foreign groups' growing holdings in United Kingdom companies.

Small firms subsidy to end

Abolition of the small firms employment subsidy scheme from the end of next month was announced yesterday by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

In the new financial year the overall cost of special employment measures will be an estimated £360m compared with an expenditure of £374m in the current financial year.

The small firms scheme offered certain companies in the private sector with less than 200 workers a subsidy of £20

a week for up to 26 weeks for each extra full-time job over and above the number of jobs provided on a given base.

Against the background of the cut Mr Prior announced that the youth opportunities programme operated by the MSC will be expanded.

Parliamentary report, page 14

Annual money supply up 12.2pc

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

Sterling M3, the broad measure of money, grew by 1.1 per cent in the January banking month in spite of a huge flow of funds from the private sector to the Government.

The January figures mean that M3 has now grown at an annualized rate of 12.2 per cent since last June. This compares with the Government's target of 7.1 per cent in the period between June, 1979, and October, 1980.

Although the January figure was very much in line with indications given by the Bank of England last week, it still leaves the monetary authorities with a considerable task in bringing growth back on course. Ministers have already made it clear that the aim is not simply to bring monetary growth back inside the top end of their target range but to finish up with it closer to the middle of the range.

GEC stunned as Racal wins battle for Decca

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

The battle for Decca ended abruptly yesterday when Racal Electronics said it had irrevocable acceptances from enough Decca shareholders to give it voting control of the company.

It secured these with a new equity offer worth £103m at last night's prices backed by a cash alternative of £100.7m.

General Electric Company, whose best offer is worth around £106m, was stunned by the Racal coup, but was accepting defeat last night. Sir Kenneth and deputy managing director of GEC, said: "On the basis that Racal in fact have got control of the voting shares there is nothing we can do about it."

Yesterday's events explain

why Racal and its advisers. Hill Samuel, have remained silent throughout this week. They were negotiating with major Decca shareholders, including Mrs S. Dimenstein, a Swiss resident and the daughter of the late Mr M. Rosenzweig, a former Decca director who holds 8 per cent of Decca's votes.

By yesterday Racal had gained irrevocable acceptances from Mrs Dimenstein; the trustees of the late Sir Edward Lewis, Decca's former chairman who died during the bid battle; and other institutional shareholders.

Together with the small holdings of the Decca board, which is recommending this new offer, that gave Racal acceptances from holders of 38.1 per cent of the voting capital.

It then went into the stock market yesterday morning and bought a further 403,000 Decca ordinary shares, raising its own holding up to 12.3 per cent of the voting capital. That gave Racal bare control of Decca. It now has only to send out its official offer to declare its bid unconditional in which case the acceptances become finally irrevocable. GEC cannot match this.

Racal's new terms are three ordinary shares for each Decca ordinary and five Racal shares for every two Decca "A" non-voting shares. On the basis of last night's Racal share price this values each Decca ordinary at 62½p and each "A" at 51½p. Racal is also offering a cash alternative of 600p for each Decca ordinary and 500p for each "A".

GEC's best offer is in convertible loan stock which, assuming the stock would hold a premium of 10 per cent over par (which the stock market thinks it would), values each Decca ordinary at 643p.

This becomes academic now that Racal has gained its winning position with a shut-out bid, but Sir Kenneth Bond was clearly unhappy last night about how it had happened. He said: "On one hand we are pleased that the uncertainty has been removed which is to the benefit of the Decca business."

"On the other hand we are a little bit mystified as to how they have been able to collect the shares other than family shares."

whether we would have been prepared to pay more. The directors (of Decca) do not know whether they could have done better for their shareholders. At least we have done some good for Decca shareholders—whether they could have done better is something they ought to ask their directors."

Decca's board, at that time still headed by Sir Edward Lewis, had backed Racal's first offer of £65½m. It looked for a time as though the matter was settled, and that the offer reflected the considerable trading problems of Decca. Then GEC countered, and the result at the end of the day is that Decca shareholders have been offered another £38m.

Financial Editor, page 21

BNOC sale plan hits delay over PSBR

By Nicholas Hirst

Government plans to invite private capital into the state-owned British National Oil Corporation are running into increasing difficulties because of the adverse effects a share sale could have on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in future years.

The complexity of the sale, coupled with difficulties of timing, could even prove so great that the whole idea may have to be scrapped, but at the moment, despite differences between the Government Department and Number 10 Downing Street, ministers still believe that the plan can proceed. An announcement, however, has now been delayed for several weeks.

The basic plan was to split BNOC in two, retaining the oil trading arm which has rights to 51 per cent of all offshore production in Government hands so securing future oil supplies for the nation, but creating a new company to explore and produce oil.

As yet the Government has been unable to decide whether to offer ultimately more or less than 50 per cent of this company to the public. With BNOC's North Sea assets valued at up to £2,500m a sale of more than a third might be difficult for the stock market to swallow.

Coal prices rise 20 pc for industry

By Our Energy Correspondent

Coal prices for industrial users are to rise by an average of just over 20 per cent from March 1, the National Coal Board announced yesterday. The rises are to take account of the 20 per cent wage increase for miners beginning next month and their 10 per cent interim award covering January and February, as well as rises in other production costs.

Domestic customers face an increase of 8 per cent for house coal and 10 or 11 per cent for smokeless varieties between March and July when prices will go up again by an average 5 per cent.

The coal board's biggest customer, the Central Electricity Generating Board, has agreed to continue to take 75 million tonnes of production during 1980.

An understanding between the CEBG and the NCB was reached last year for the CEBG to take 75 million tonnes for five years provided the NCB kept its price rises within the general rate of inflation. It is understood that the CEBG will be paying less than the average 20 per cent increase.

A special rate has also been negotiated for supplies of five million tonnes of coking coal to the British Steel Corporation. Coking coal is going up by an average 15 per cent.

BL needs merger to survive, report says

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

British Leyland has little chance of survival in its present form without a merger or wide-ranging partnership deal with one or more foreign manufacturers, according to an independent consultants' report disclosed yesterday.

The report was prepared by the Paris-based firm Eurofinance for the Transport and General Workers' Union. It says that even after rebuilding its product range and meeting production targets "The odds are heavily against BL (on its own) in the longer term."

The report whose main conclusions were rejected by British Leyland last night, states: "As a result of damage suffered in the 1970s BL is now the smallest and weakest full-range motor vehicle manufacturer in the world."

It has no overseas production (as opposed to assembly) bases, an aging and uncompetitive product range and is pitifully short of skilled technical and engineering resources. Its market share is shrinking and dealers are defecting."

Eurofinance suggests that even Leyland Vehicles, despite introduction this year of the new T45 truck, may be vulnerable because of "its small size and weak European presence."

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Hopes of new bid for Furness

By Ronald Pullen

Speculation mounted yesterday of a counter-bidder for shipping group Furness Withy after the £96.5m approach from Mr C. Y. Tung's Hongkong-based Orient Overseas Container (Holdings) Furness Withy shares jumped a fifth to 40½p at one point then dropped back to 36½p for a net gain on the day of 3½p, and around 50 per cent increase over the past week.

Fuelling the rumours was news that European Ferries quickly took advantage of Furness Withy's strength to place its 4.99 per cent holding and that the entire stake had been sold to a United Kingdom company which had made a direct approach through the market for European Ferries' stake.

Mr Keith Wickenden, chairman of European Ferries, said that he accepted 380p a share for the holding which provided the company with a £1.9m profit, because "the present Furness share price overvalues the company". Explaining his decision to sell so quickly, Mr Wickenden added he thought the Tung bid would be referred to the Monopolies Commission because of its earlier decision that Mr Peter Narby's Eurocanadian holding in Furness was against the interests of the British shipping industry.

Further market purchases have taken OOC's direct stake in Furness up to 5.31 per cent. The attitude of Rea Brothers, the merchant banker which is understood to control around 25 per cent of the Furness equity, will be crucial. Mr Narby and shareholders in Eurocanadian also speak for about 17 per cent of Furness shares.

SE orders inquiry on Gold Fields dealings

By Michael Prest

The Stock Exchange last night announced that it is setting up an investigation into recent dealings in shares in Consolidated Gold Fields. At the same time, Mr Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange's chairman, said he was very concerned that some shareholders were offered a higher price than others.

In Westminster as well as in the City shock waves from Anglo-American's acquisition of 25 per cent in Gold Fields are still being felt. Four MPs have tabled questions asking whether powers are sufficient to prevent foreign companies surreptitiously building up stakes and whether the Government intends to take any action.

Two written questions have been tabled by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, asking the Secretary of State for Trade to note the Anglo deal and its effect on small shareholders and asking if any action is contemplated against foreign groups' growing holdings in United Kingdom companies.

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£5m joint venture for factories

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Legal and General Assurance Society is to enter into a partnership with the Government's English Industrial Estates Corporation (EIEC) in a £5m deal to build advanced factories in assisted areas.

The venture, announced yesterday by Mr David Mitchell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, precedes enactment of the Industry Bill now receiving a Second Reading in the House of Lords, which gives new functions to the EIEC and provides for a change in the status of the corporation.

Under the deal, EIEC agreed in principle with Legal and General to construct 300,000 sq ft of factories and warehouses with funds from the insurance group. The development will be located at Team Valley, Gateshead, Elland, Goldthorpe and a third site in Yorkshire, will be worth about £5m and will be carried out on sites owned or leased by the EIEC and originally bought by the corporation for Government-financed advanced factories.

The deal, which is expected to be followed by others, will go ahead on the enactment of the Industry Bill.

Legal and General will provide the interim finance and will retain the developments. The rate of return will be between 8½ per cent and 8½ per cent according to the site.

Mr Mitchell described the venture as an "excellent example of public and private sector cooperation" which would allow an increase in advanced factory building to go ahead without additional cost to public funds.

is counting on a much slower growth in private sector loan demand to justify both proposing a relatively high public sector borrowing requirement for 1980-81 and holding out the prospect of a fall in interest rates.

Unless, therefore, improvement is quickly forthcoming, its whole Budget strategy would tend to become very much more high-risk.

The basic figures for the five weeks to January 16 show that the public sector contribution to domestic credit expansion was negative to the tune of £970m (after gilt edged sales to the non-bank private sector of £1,626m; that bank lending to the private and overseas sectors rose by £1,492m; and that total domestic credit expanded by £522m. Adding in the impact of positive flows across the exchanges, sterling M3 rose by 626m, or 1.1 per cent. M1, the narrow measure of money, was barely changed for the second month running.

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Legal and General Assurance Society is to enter into a partnership with the Government's English Industrial Estates Corporation (EIEC) in a £5m deal to build advanced factories in assisted areas.

The venture, announced yesterday by Mr David Mitchell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, precedes enactment of the Industry Bill now receiving a Second Reading in the House of Lords, which gives new functions to the EIEC and provides for a change in the status of the corporation.

Under the deal, EIEC agreed in principle with Legal and General to construct 300,000 sq ft of factories and warehouses with funds from the insurance group. The development will be located at Team Valley, Gateshead, Elland, Goldthorpe and a third site in Yorkshire, will be worth about £5m and will be carried out on sites owned or leased by the EIEC and originally bought by the corporation for Government-financed advanced factories.

The deal, which is expected to be followed by others, will go ahead on the enactment of the Industry Bill.

Legal and General will provide the interim finance and will retain the developments. The rate of return will be between 8½ per cent and 8½ per cent according to the site.

Mr Mitchell described the venture as an "excellent example of public and private sector cooperation" which would allow an increase in advanced factory building to go ahead without additional cost to public funds.

is counting on a much slower growth in private sector loan demand to justify both proposing a relatively high public sector borrowing requirement for 1980-81 and holding out the prospect of a fall in interest rates.

Unless, therefore, improvement is quickly forthcoming, its whole Budget strategy would tend to become very much more high-risk.

The basic figures for the five weeks to January 16 show that the public sector contribution to domestic credit expansion was negative to the tune of £970m (after gilt edged sales to the non-bank private sector of £1,626m; that bank lending to the private and overseas sectors rose by £1,492m; and that total domestic credit expanded by £522m. Adding in the impact of positive flows across the exchanges, sterling M3 rose by 626m, or 1.1 per cent. M1, the narrow measure of money, was barely changed for the second month running.

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises			
Barlow Rand	35p to 40½p	Lesney Ord	5p to 35p
Furness Withy	35p to 36½p	Seastrut	40c to 800c
Grosvet	35c to 36c	Streeters	20p to 17p
Int Thomson	23c to 42½p	Sungel Besi	20p to 290p
Killinghall	20p to 34½p	W Rand Cons	83c to 813c
Falls			
Decca	15p to 38½p	Nthgate Explor	20p to 520p
Freemans	20p to 11c	Plessey	10p to 14½p
Guthrie Corp	35p to 33½p	Racal	20p to 207p
Howard Mach	4p to 18p	RTZ	16p to 468p
Ldn Sumatra	17p to 44½p	Youghal Cpts	1p to 15p

THE POUND	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	seils	seils
Australia \$	2.13	1.05	4.37
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25	11.12
Belgium Fr	69.00	65.50	104.00
Canada \$	2.72	2.66	1.72
Denmark Kr	12.97	8.48	151.50



'Production inhibited by inflation' - Gatt

In describing near-term trade prospects as "not encouraging", Gatt (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) says in Geneva that uncertainty generated by inflation and protectionist pressures continues to be the main factor inhibiting productive investment.

"Inflationary expectations have become more firmly entrenched, and the confidence with which economic agents can plan their actions continues to be eroded," Gatt added, in its first 1980 assessment. "The most important task of policy is to alter these expectations, since it is mainly on their state that both the length and the cost of the fight against inflation depend."

Italy seeks fibre curbs
Italy plans to inform Mr. Roubini, the Italian trade negotiator of its intention to seek curbs on imports of certain synthetic fibres from the United States. Italian official sources said yesterday.

Silver output up
Mexican silver production should rise about 18 per cent in 1980, said Señor Ricardo Rojas, director of Industrias Penoles SA, one of the country's largest mining and metalworking companies. Output should reach 65 million troy ounces. About 70 per cent will be exported.

New Zealand deficit
New Zealand had a balance of payments deficit of NZ\$237m (about £223m) in the year ended December 12, compared with a deficit of NZ\$292m the previous year, the reserve bank of New Zealand reports.

Bonn-East trade fall
West Germany's trade surplus with the Soviet Union, other east European countries, China and North Korea declined 44.6 per cent in 1979 from 1978, according to figures published by the Bonn economics ministry.

Fewer ships ordered
Foreign shipbuilding orders received by Japanese shipyards in January fell to 16 ships, totalling 391,900 gross tons, from 45 and 1.31 million tons, but rose from 11 and 218,800 tons a year ago, the Japan Ship Exporters Association said in Tokyo.

Dutch c.o.l. rise
Dutch cost of living index rose 5.5 per cent to a provisional 129.9 base 1975, in the year to mid-January, compared with 4.8 per cent in the year to mid-December, according to economics ministry figures released at The Hague.

Yards ready to consider implications of 15-month self-funding deal Shipbuilders swallow bitter pill on jobs and pay

Over the next few days, shipyard workers will be considering the implications of the new fifteen-month pay deal agreed with British Shipbuilders. The loss-making shipbuilding corporation appears to have succeeded in securing a deal which has so far eluded the negotiators of the British Steel Corporation.

Comparisons are unavoidable. Both are operating in an international market where demand for products has disintegrated; where costs are rising; where competition is intense; and where productivity is low by standards of their major international competitors.

Equally, both industries are being squeezed by the Government's insistence on a return to commercial reality to be achieved within the framework of rigorously applied cash limits. And both have had to contend with the need to rationalize facilities and reduce labour.

BS entered the negotiations against the background of a continued gloomy international outlook for the next two or three years but with agreement secured last autumn with the unions for a shake-out of some 10,000 workers from its labour force.

The corporation has been successful in carrying through redundancies since it was nationalized in 1977. About 12,000 workers have left the industry since then, secured with the usual redundancy terms made available in shipbuilding.

The unions, who negotiate through the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, have huffed and puffed over the level of cutbacks required. But their eventual agreement has enabled the board of BS to move forward its plans



Mr Michael Casey: pay deal will bring stability to industry.

for further reductions and the likelihood of trouble, while always present, is not seen as a major threat.

The industry's 76,000 workers are being asked to accept a fifteen-month deal which falls well below the aspirations of their union negotiators when discussions began, and well below the 20 per cent which has become the rallying call for striking steelworkers. But the settlement at national level is within a hairsbreadth of the 14 per cent which BSC believed it had secured with its craft unions yesterday until its two-to-one rejection at a delegate conference. At the Treasury, the shipbuilding deal has been seized on by officials as more than encouraging and is seen as a success for the cash limits policy.

Shipyard workers will receive a 10 per cent rise from April 1 on present rates in individual yards (not on minimum

rates) with a further 5 per cent in October. To bridge the gap caused by the change in settlement dates—from January to April—there will be a lump sum payment of £125 for semi and unskilled workers, £150 for skilled workers and £200 for managers and foremen. This amounts to an 11.5 per cent increase on an annual basis according to British Steel.

The deal will cost £52m and (unlike BSC's attempts so far) will be self-funding. Mr Michael Casey the chief executive of the corporation emphasized that the deal would give a stable period at a critical time for the industry which is still working towards its base load target of 45 merchant ship orders for 26 vessels. Vital to the industry's ability to meet its targets are the improvements in productivity which have eluded the industry for so long. The target is to boost productivity—expressed in terms of tonnes per man year—by 82 per cent by 1982-83 compared with the average from the 1973-77 period.

Latest published figures show that the taxpayer is subsidizing the shipbuilding industry at a rate of £297 per man. The corporation ends its financial year next for the first half of 1979 and is optimistic that it will remain inside the Government-set loss limit of £100m for the full year. But the cash constraints will be tightened next year and will be a critical test for the management and the unions.

Peter Hill

Leyland setbacks not isolated in motor industry's global crisis

By Clifford Webb

The full extent of the crisis facing the motor industry worldwide is only now emerging, and shows that British Leyland's latest sales setback is far from isolated. In the United States it is reported that 260,000 of the 758,000 hourly paid motor industry workers are laid off, and Ford is expected to report a \$1,700m (£736.5m) loss for last year. American production in January was 35 per cent down on the same month last year.

General Motors, the world's largest motor manufacturer, whose profits were halved last month, is stopping some shifts entirely. Chrysler's critical situation with the federal government providing big financial assistance, the corporation's biggest-ever loss of \$1,000m is still giving rise to concern about its ability to ride out the present storm.

In Canada, production so far this year is reported to have fallen by over a third, with Chrysler Canada closing one plant. In Europe, short-time working and layoffs are extensive, and expected to get worse. In Germany, for so long the pace-setter, Ford Granada production was halted for six weeks at the end of 1979, and is reported to have resumed at very reduced levels.

Attempts are being made to switch production to the much smaller Fiesta which is still in good demand. Opel has also introduced short-time working in its factories, and there are reports that extensive layoffs are on the way. Industry sources suggest that Mercedes Benz, which has enjoyed a long winning list for its cars for several years, is now receiving substantial cancellations of orders.

In France, PSA/Talbot is operating extensive short-time working throughout its plant, and is reliably reported to be forecasting heavy losses this year. Talbot (UK)—the former Chrysler company—is expected to report losses of £40m for last year. Citroën has shut down all its plants for two days.

In Italy, Fiat has cut its production schedules and will be lucky to break even.

A BL spokesman said last night: "We are not surprised by what is happening in the rest of the world, and it does put our troubles into perspective. Hundreds of thousands of workers are laid off in America. The whole industry worldwide is facing a recession because of depressed markets brought about by rising fuel costs, and fears of a general economic setback."

BL order to manufacture German truck gearbox

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Leyland Vehicles, the truck and bus arm of British Leyland, yesterday signed its first deal to manufacture a major foreign component in its factories. More joint-venture projects were foreshadowed by Mr David Abell, LV's chairman and managing director.

ZF of Friedrichshafen, Germany, Europe's leading independent gearbox producer, has licensed Leyland to manufacture its new S6-36 synchromesh box for installation in a range of 12 to 24-ton trucks which will go into production at Bathgate in Scotland during 1983.

Leyland's existing medium-weight boxes are outdated and of the "crash" gear-change type.

Mr Abell told a press conference in London: "Every-

one's future in the truck business depends on greater co-operation in the design and production of components. Leyland has been criticized in the past for being isolationist. This is no longer true, as the deal with ZF shows.

"Other joint ventures involving Leyland and component manufacturers will follow. We now have much to offer in the way of new models. It is not overstating the case to say that LV is poised for an exciting new period in its history and the competition is well aware of this."

Last month Leyland launched the Landtrain, a new super heavyweight truck designed for use in developing countries. A new European heavy truck, code-named T45, will follow next month and will be the first of an entire new family of trucks.

VW heads attack on lorry sales in the UK

By Edward Townsend

MAN-VW Truck and Bus, the joint United Kingdom marketing operation for the two German vehicle manufacturers, said yesterday it planned to increase sales in the United Kingdom this year to 10,000 units, a rise of more than 42 per cent on 1979.

The forecast, made in the face of an expected 15 per cent decline in van and lorry sales in the United Kingdom this year, emphasizes the growing competition among manufacturers, particularly in the heavy truck sector.

The importers, led by VW which is strong at the lighter end of the market, are all launching major sales offensives designed to capture business from the home producers BL, Ford, Dodge and Bedford.

MAN-VW, established in the United Kingdom a year ago, plans to spend almost £3m in 1980 on a new head office, warehouse, training and technical centre at Swindon and is embarking on a dealer recruitment drive to boost the combined total of outlets from the 1979 level of 104 to 160.

In the coming 12 months it is hoped that sales of heavy trucks will be able to 1,000 units and give the companies 6 per cent of the market. VW light trucks already hold 17.5 per cent of the United Kingdom market and the target in this sector is to boost sales by 2,000 units to 8,000 this year and increase market share to 24 per cent.

Scale fees rule ended by quantity surveyors

By Derek Harris

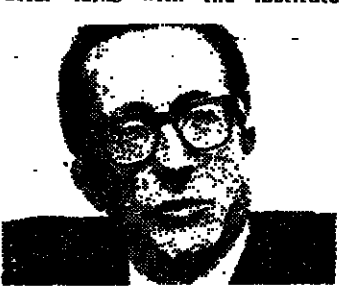
The Institute of Quantity Surveyors is dropping mandatory scale fees for its members so that they can freely compete on quotations to customers.

It is the first professional group among surveyors and architects to make this move after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reported two years ago that professional rules against quoting competitive fees were against the public interest.

The institute is amending its bylaws to make clear that scales of fees in future will not be mandatory but recommended only as guidance.

Members will be free to scale up or down their own charges, although there will be a safeguard that once a fee is formally submitted it may not later be revised because of different fees quoted by other quantity surveyors.

This was reported yesterday by Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, after talks with the institute



Mr Borrie: talks about fees with valuers and architects.

that also involved Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Discussions are also to be held shortly with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other surveyors' organizations about that part of their members' work classified as quantity surveying, a service excluded from official surveillance under restrictive practices legislation.

The chartered surveyors have asked the Restrictive Practices Court to rule on whether some other surveying work is also excluded from the restrictive practices legislation.

Mr Borrie is having talks with the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers about various agreements which may be restricted. These include scales of fees for valuations.

Talks have also been resumed between Mr Borrie and the Royal Institute of British Architects about their mandatory fees scales, following intervention by Mrs Oppenheim.

The minister has decided for the time being not to set up an independent committee to determine guidance fee scales

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DHSS advantage in company insolvency 'particularly unfair'

From Mr A. M. Homan

Sir, Ian Watt's article headed "Insolvency: the state's unfair advantage" in your issue of February 11 rightly focuses attention on the Crown's increasing priority treatment in insolvencies. One of the effects of this is to erode the assets with which a liquidator or receiver is entitled to trade in seeking to preserve or rescue a business. Coupled with the increase in the use of reservation of title by suppliers and the evidence of fixed mortgages on book debts and plant and machinery, the increase in Crown priority may be beginning to impinge on the chances of businesses being rescued and it is right that the matter should be examined.

There is however one aspect of the State's advantage that is particularly unfair and that is the effect of certain provisions of the Social Security Act 1975 under which company directors can be held personally responsible for payment of National Insurance contributions unpaid on a company's insolvency. The Department of Health and Social Security can pursue these claims against directors to the point of making them bankrupt. Directors are placed in an invidious position by these provisions. Any director of a troubled company who does not pay the DHSS is foolishly but any director who seeks to avoid personal liability by paying the DHSS ahead of other creditors is probably making a fraudulent preference within Section 320 of the Companies Act 1948.

Little or no publicity has been given to these provisions and the attitude of the DHSS appears to be that publicity might lead to difficulties in trading directors to whom the provisions apply. I wonder how many company directors are aware of the risk they run and I question whether it is right for this particular unfair advantage to continue pending the deliberations of the Cork Committee.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. HOMAN,
Price Waterhouse & Co.,
Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9SY.
February 13.

Why we should not put all the blame on Murphy

From Mr Roy Batchelor and others

Sir, The most visible manifestations of the science of management are cute one-liners, like the various Parkinson Laws, the Peter Principle, Murphy's Law and so on. Goodhart's Law—that any monetary aggregate loses all economic meaning the instant the Bank of England turns its baleful gaze upon it—certainly has as much entertainment value as its predecessors but rather less sense.

Its progenitor appears to concede (see *Financial Times* of February 4, February 8) that monetary control is not inherently impossible. It is the way the Bank of England has chosen to conduct policy which is self-defeating. However Goodhart qualifies this admission by the comment that all of economic policy is bedevilled by a law of cussedness, and that Murphy's Law—something can go wrong, if it will—explains the failure not only of monetary policies but also of demand management policies and incomes policies over the past two decades. This is a new and dangerous fallacy. It gives absolute to policy makers and politicians for past mistakes and stops them thinking too hard about the lessons of these mistakes.

In fact, two simple lessons can be learnt from the experience Goodhart cites. First, governments promise more than the economy can deliver. There are natural limits to real interest rates and unemployment and no amount of macro-economic muscle will shift them, though it will create inflation and uncertainty. Second, governments disregard at their peril the expectations of

workers and businessmen and the effects their own actions will have on these expectations and hence on market behaviour.

All the relationships which Goodhart cites as "going wrong" for policy in the 1970s—the perverse positive correlation between unemployment and inflation, the fall in consumption relative to disposable income and the unstable connection between the demand for money and total expenditure—are known to have shifted because the government's monetary policies raised inflation expectations.

Government actions do not cause market relationships to break down. However, market participants will frame expectations as rationally as possible and in particular will take account of the consequences of the promised government actions. This often leads to unintended results. It is, for example, why interest rates nowdays rise rather than fall during a monetary expansion: lenders can see the inflation coming and demand a premium in compensation. The fact that markets are capable of forming rational expectations and acting on them adjusts the power of many traditional policy tools and the ambitions of economic policy makers must be trimmed accordingly. This may be unwelcome, but is surely a more realistic response than blaming it all on Murphy.

Yours faithfully,
ROY BATCHELOR,
GEOFFREY E. WOOD,
Centre for Banking and International Finance,
The City University,
Northampton Square,
London EC1V 0BB.
February 12.

The cost of contracting out of state pensions

From Mr Raymond Nottage

Sir, Mr Pilch says (February 7) in regard to the cost to the nation of the contracting out option in the state pensions scheme that "logic is a more appropriate discipline than arithmetic". That the chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds should seek to make such a distinction and to designate arithmetic as a tool of inferior usefulness, surely goes a long way to explain why Britain's system of retirement pensions leaves so much to be desired.

It may be, as Mr Pilch claims, that by paying more now as a result of the contracting out option—and this we certainly are—there will be a future saving. What I wish Mr Pilch would tell us, however, is (a) when he expects that saving to occur, (b) how much he expects it to be and (c) what is the real rate of return on investment on which he calculates (a) and (b). It is a preposterous as Mr Pilch would have us believe to expect him—or at any rate his

numerous colleagues in the N.A.P.F.—to know the answers in arithmetic terms to these simple questions which are at the very heart of the matter? Or could it be that he and they know the answers perfectly well, but do not wish to reveal them?

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND NOTTAGE,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
February 12.

From Mr W. A. Sibly
Sir, For those of your readers who are pension experts, may I explain that Mr Paterson (February 11) is arguing a case which is quite different from that put forward by Mr Nottage (January 30).

Mr Nottage is opposed to the principle of funding in advance for pension liabilities and objects to the contracting-out option in the National Insurance Scheme because it allows the use of advance funding in an otherwise pay as you go scheme.

Mr Paterson is not, as I

understand, opposed to the principle of funding in advance, so he does not support Mr Nottage's thesis. He did, however, at the time when employers were required to decide whether or not to contract out, argue at length and for quite different reasons against it, sing the option.

I am a little provoked by Mr Paterson's attempt, to reopen that debate by attributing to me arguments which I have not used. But, since the very complex issues involved were examined at length at that time by all those professionally involved, I am content to rest on the fact that Mr Paterson's arguments were not accepted by the employers of more than 90 per cent of the members of occupational pension schemes.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. SIBLY,
Assistant General Manager (Pensions),
Legal & General Assurance Society Limited,
Temple Court,
11 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4N 4TP.

DALGETY Food and Agricultural Products

Half-year profits for existing Dalgety businesses are £13.7 million—a new record.

Spillers also contributed £2 million for 2 months.

Interim Dividend declared of 11p per share (8.04p—1979).

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Integration of Spillers underway. First indications encouraging and confirm our confidence that this acquisition will strengthen the Group.

Copies of the interim report for the six months ended 31st December 1979 are available from The Secretary, Dalgety Limited, 19 Hanover Square, London W1. Telephone: 01-499 7112



Bonn favours 'bigger and better' aid for Turkey

From Peter Norman

Intermittent economic aid for Turkey this year will have to be "quantitatively bigger and qualitatively better" than the \$960m (about £417m) scheme arranged in 1979, and embedded in a medium to long term programme for curing the country's economic ills.

This is the message that Herr Hans Matthöfer, the West German finance minister, has been spelling out to other Western finance ministers as coordinator of the latest international effort to put Turkey back on its feet.

West Germany has taken the leading role in trying to resuscitate Turkey's crippled economy since the Guadeloupe summit at the beginning of 1979. For the past three weeks, Herr Matthöfer has, at the specific request of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, been engaged in a welter of discussions designed to pull together a new assistance programme under OECD auspices in time for an international "pledging conference" in Paris on March 25.

The Germans are particularly concerned that the aid to Turkey should be granted on

liberal terms. Project-linking and other strings attached to contributions to last year's deal meant that by the end of last month only about half of the \$960m pledged by the West had been transferred to Ankara.

According to information supplied by the Turks, the Scandinavian countries were, apart from West Germany and the United States, the only participants in the 1979 scheme to have transferred their promised contributions in full by the end of January.

Britain's promised contribution of \$34.2m was apparently one of those still outstanding. The eventual size of the economic aid being arranged by Herr Matthöfer this year must still be the subject of speculation. He leaves Bonn on Saturday for Geneva, where he will meet representatives of the Saudi government to see if they will contribute and he is going on for further discussions in Athens and Ankara itself.

Of the more crucial importance will be the talks that he is due to hold in Washington in the first week of March. Any agreement on figures in Washington would more or less determine the scope of the final assistance offered.

THE THROGMORTON SECURED GROWTH TRUST LIMITED

INTERIM REVENUE STATEMENT
The Board of Directors announce the following unaudited interim revenue figures of the Company for the six months ended on 31st January, 1980.

	Six Months Ended 31.1.80	Six Months Ended 31.1.79	Year Ended 31.12.79
GROSS REVENUE	£ 389,593	£ 360,145	£ 688,469
Less: Interest Charges	158,747	138,747	317,628
Administration	19,306	17,045	37,540
Less: Taxation	211,540	184,353	333,301
EARNINGS FOR THE PERIOD	£ 13,000	£ 12,000	£ 103,729
Revenue reserves brought forward	19,756	15,184	15,184
NET REVENUE attributable to ordinary shareholders	£ 13,000	£ 12,000	£ 103,729
DIVIDENDS:			
Interim 0.6125p (1979-0.6125p)	61,250	61,250	61,250
Final — (1979-1.6375p)	—	—	163,750
COST OF DIVIDENDS	£ 61,250	£ 61,250	£ 225,000
Unappropriated revenue carried forward	£ 51,750	£ 50,750	£ 118,729
Earnings per share	1.37p	1.20p	2.30p
NET ASSET VALUE (Debtors at par) ..	125.4	122.7	146.1

At a meeting of the Board of Directors it was resolved that an interim dividend of 0.6125p per share (1979-0.6125p) be paid on 3rd April 1980 in respect of the year to 31st July 1980 to shareholders on the register at 6th March 1980.

The Companies' Bill which incorporates mandatory EEC legislation contains provisions relating to the payment of dividends. As recently drafted, these provisions could for the time being inhibit the ability of the company to distribute its revenue. Representations have been made to the Association of Investment Trusts and also the Department of Trade with a view to obtaining amendments to the Companies' Bill. As matters stand, the directors do not expect that the total dividend for the current year will be reduced below that paid in the year ended 31st July 1979.

14th February 1980

مكنا من الأصيل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A coup de grâce from Racial

Not unnaturally there were a few ruffled feathers in the GEC camp yesterday when Racial produced its coup de grâce with a bid for Decca that is in fact slightly below GEC's on last night's prices, but which nevertheless has the support of just over 50 per cent of the Decca voting capital. Moreover, this includes members of the Decca board whose shareholdings, though not significant, have been thrown irrevocably in with Racial along with a recommendation of Racial's bid.

This is a shut-out and may not have been possible under the pre-1976 Takeover Code which had fairly strict rules governing such tactics. Under a Code revision these were deemed too cumbersome in that they delayed an outcome, and promoted an auction, often to the disadvantage of the employees of a company and shareholders. In this case the Panel, which was consulted by Racial, has decided that General Principle II, which effectively guards against directors acting in their own interests, has not been breached.

So Racial's new terms value Decca at around £103m, with a cash offer of £100.7m, GEC's best offer, in convertible loan stock, values Decca at around £106m if one assumes (reasonably) that the stock is worth a premium of about 10 per cent over par. Without Racial's successful bid for the shut-out, this bid could well have been decided by an argument in the market over the respective values of the two contenders' paper.

That is not to be since Racial now has only to send out its official offer to secure the bid going unconditional, something which GEC can no longer do. GEC has been outmanoeuvred but its intervention has gained Decca shareholders an additional £38m over that which the Decca board was originally prepared to accept when it recommended Racial's opening terms.

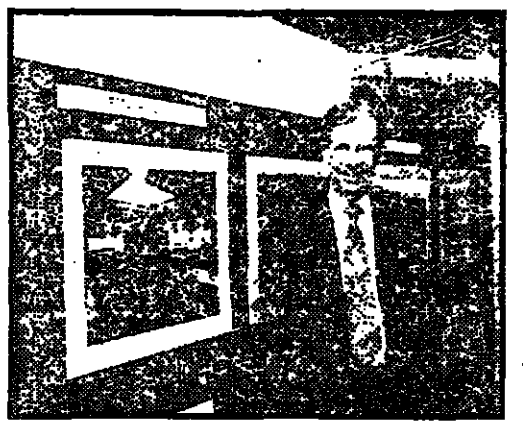
The performance of Decca's board apart though, Racial has also been able to achieve success with the help of a number of institutional shareholders who have accepted. They won't be thanked by institutions who decided to hold out on the view that at this stage GEC may have been prepared to go a little higher. Still, the deal is done, and given Racial's performance after the acquisition of Milgo, the benefits of the Decca purchase even at this price should be showing through within three years.

Imperial Ahead of the Ho-Jo bid

Disappointing profits from Imperial Group—£136.7m against £131m—match the forecast made at the time of the Howard Johnson bid. So interest turned to the dividend and Imperial duly delivered, celebrating its fourth year of near static profits with a 15 per cent increase in the net payment.

Meanwhile, giving further support to the income status, is the news that the dividend would be 11 times covered even inflation-adjusted after tax profits of £66m, while the gilt holdings now stand at more than £250m.

As anticipated, eggs did the damage on the trading from last Eastwood losing £5.4m and food profits overall dropping £2.1m to £24.7m, where they represent only



Sir John Pile, chairman of Imperial Group.

2 per cent of turnover. Margins in tobacco, however, improved a point to give profits of £78.6m as brand hostilities eased, while Imperial held on to its 43 per cent of the king-size market.

Prospects for the current year look mixed

even discounting the \$630m Howard Johnson takeover, which still hangs on liquor licensing laws being overcome in four remaining states. Imperial is still not making money on eggs although signs that the EEC glut could be subsidising provide scope for fairly strong recovery.

For cigarettes, however, the outlook is far less hopeful. A Budget price increase of anything between 8p and 12p seems likely and if calls for an advertising ban succeed the decline in consumption could accelerate to as much as 4 per cent this year. At the same time brewing is unlikely to turn in much more than last year's £38.3m.

The upshot is that shares, up 3p to 84p yesterday are going to be held in check at least until mid-April, in spite of the attractions of the 12 per cent yield. Thereafter prospects of profits rising to perhaps £140m, excluding Ho-Jo, and the long-term promise held out by the American acquisition should ensure a firmer market, provided of course that the liquor licence snags in California are overcome.

Dalgety Integrating Spillers

On the strength of its four months' experience so far, Dalgety reckons that has in Spillers exactly what it expected to have: the strong bits are strong, the weak bits are weak, and the lot will take about a year to integrate. So the £2m which Spillers contributed to the group's half-time profits—up from £12.2m to £15.7m pre-tax—is no indication of the eventual impact of the £70m acquisition on the profit and loss account.

A generally good performance elsewhere was marred by a £1m downturn in food processing and distribution to £400,000 pre-tax, which reflects difficulties in the United States frozen foods business which are not likely to be resolved in the immediate future. Moreover the Canadian lumber business, which marked time in the first half with same again pre-tax profits of £2.2m, is likely to suffer in the second from a downturn in housing starts in the United States. But strong wool and livestock prices should benefit the agricultural side, which still provides about half of the group's profits: so—in spite of the impact of higher interest costs (and borrowings, including Spillers), are up from £151.4m to £247.8m—the group will probably make something in the region of £45m for the year, as against £31.5m last time.

That, however, will hardly set the stock market alight. Dalgety's shares shed a penny to 298p yesterday, at which level they yield 10.5 per cent on the forecast dividend. They are not likely to move up relative to the market in the foreseeable future, and could move down: so there's no argument for buying at the moment.

● The gilt-edged market failed to add to Wednesday's sharp rally yesterday. Indeed, it was left facing something of a puzzle. The initial reaction to the Bank of England's move to relieve the present reserve asset shortage and keep the lid on base rates had been bullish on two grounds.

First, it confirmed that the Bank did not want to see interest rates any higher. Second, it suggested that it would be very odd for the authorities to exacerbate short-term pressures still further by launching into a fresh round of funding at the moment. Encouraging though the short-term technical situation may look for gilts, however, the fact remains that, in spite of the massive flows to the Exchequer during banking January, sterling M3 grew by 1.1 per cent, leaving the annualized rate of growth since last June at 12.2 per cent.

Now it may just be that the particularly distorted structure of relative interest rates led some companies to fund tax payments in the short-term by drawing down overdrafts rather than cashing in high yielding deposits—thus keeping bank lending and sterling M3 higher than they might otherwise have been. But until the situation becomes clearer with another set of monthly figures, there must be the suspicion that the problem of dealing with the technical problems of the banks and money markets could mean that it will take several more months to bring sterling M3 back on course.

Chicago is facing a severe financial crises. Frank Vogl reports

Storm cones hoisted over the windy city

Washington, Feb 14
An ill wind has been blowing through the city of Chicago since when he became the mayor's chief financial advisor.

Mayor Richard Daley ruled Chicago with an iron fist. Chicago had the best tuned political machine in the United States. Through Mayor Daley Chicago carved out a special place in American politics.

To no small extent the mayor's success lay in his reputation for holding taxes down on this ability to grease the wheels of his party organization by providing thousands of city jobs for loyal Democrats. But in the 1970s the financial act as city hall became precarious as inflation pushed operating costs ever higher.

But they have issued severe warnings. Last week Moody's Investors Service dropped its rating on city bonds from "AA" to "A" and declared that the bonds were "no longer considered of high quality".

Severely damaged the Standard and Poor's agency switched its rating from "A-plus" to "A-minus". A reduction from the "A" category was unwarranted, said the agency, a caveat which clearly implies a change could come.

This is a story of political corruption and balance sheet manipulation. It is a story of a city government that has been run by a few men for decades. The city's financial health has been a mystery for years. The city's financial health has been a mystery for years.

Another reputation at stake is that of Mr Edwin Yeo, third former under-secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs. He is already experienced in rescue schemes, having helped to pull New York back from the brink of bankruptcy. Mr

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Then the snow came. The storms were so bad that massive expenses were incurred just to keep the city going; some \$60m of special expenditure were involved. Some bankers, including Mr Yeo at the First National Bank, started to delay into the city's books and as they did so, they began to find funny numbers all over the place.

By Mid-December the bankers knew that new cash sought by the city, ostensibly for new fire station construction, was desperately needed to cover the wages bill. Some \$50m was required.

By January it was common knowledge that the finances were in such confusion that a full-scale crisis was at hand. Both the City and the Board of Education were in desperate difficulties.

Mr Yeo at First Chicago and Mr John Perkins and Mr David Taylor at Continental Bank began to develop a rescue plan. The mayor knew what was at stake, pledged her full support and cooperated with the bankers to the full. The bond rating agencies reacted angrily, convinced that they had been duped for years by the city they trusted. For the mayor and the bankers, winning the confidence of the rating agencies was a critical test.

Chicago takes pride in its "A" category credit standing and there was little doubt in city hall that if the rating fell below the "A" zone, then a crisis as desperate as that seen in New York could emerge.

The banks, which for long had been bitter rivals, set aside their animosity for a time to work together. First, the Board of Education had to be rescued. As much as \$500m of funds were urgently needed to keep the



Mayor Jane Byrne of Chicago: resolve under test.

school system, which employs 45,000 people, ticking over. The first task was to get some money flowing to avoid a total breakdown. Some payroll were not met. Furious teachers went on strike, protesting about heavy budget cuts which they knew were inevitable.

The first phase of the education board's rescue plan involved obtaining \$100m of short-term funds. After many struggles, notes, maturing this August, were sold with Chicago's eight largest banks taking \$25m, and the State of Illinois taking \$50m. The local unions, however, broke their promise to take \$25m, and this \$25m was finally provided by Salomon Brothers and A. J. Becker, the New York investment bank.

Phase two of the rescue operation involved the sale of \$208m of notes. Negotiations

repeatedly broke down as banks outside the city were reluctant to aid Chicago. Finally Morgan Guaranty was persuaded to help, when seven other non-Chicago banks and the city's banks plunged in as well. These notes mature next year.

The key phase, which is about to be negotiated, is to place the Board of Education on a sound long-term footing and this means selling \$500m of bonds—securities that will have to be backed by solid assurances including tough increases in the local property tax.

Meanwhile, another series of deals have been struck to rescue the city itself. The Chicago banks will shortly finalize negotiations to take on a total of \$180m of obligations and Continental Bank has provided a \$25m credit line. The banks have also managed to sell \$108.7m of notes.

So the short-term funds are being provided and the city no longer faces an immediate cash-flow crisis. But getting out of the woods depends now in particular upon reforming the city's financial structure and convincing the banks, the rating agencies, and the public at large, that from now on the city is going to manage its finances well.

To achieve this it will have to raise taxes and immediately cut public spending. A detailed cost-containment and cost-control programme has been drafted. The first objective is to eliminate, as swiftly as possible, the \$102m city budget deficit which has built-up over the years.

Any faltering of the mayor's resolve, any attempt by the city council to soften the conservative fiscal stance now pledged to the banks and rating agencies, or any change of views by the banks of rating agencies, could plunge the city

Technology

Can the Post Office sell Prestel overseas?

Next month, with the help of a £750,000 advertising campaign, the Post Office plans to bring to the notice of the British telephone subscribers public the marvels of the corporation's Prestel information service, in a bid to stimulate demand.

Meanwhile, two significant advances in Prestel exploitation, one international and one domestic, are already underway.

Prestel is the name of the Post Office's videodata system. Videodata is a generic term for systems in which pages of information are called up from computer files by the telephone network, and displayed on a video screen which can be that of an appropriately modified domestic television set.

Thus the domestic user needs a modified television set (which present costs from £800 to £1,200 to buy or about £24 a month to rent) which is linked to the house telephone. This gives access to over 150,000 pages of information (ranging from train timetables and company information to lonely hearts' advice) supplied by 128 information-providing organizations (ranging from the Consumers' Association to the Lord Chancellor's Office).

After a "market trial", which was not completed but which became transformed into a "test service", Prestel was officially launched (albeit in limited form) as the world's first public videodata service in March, 1979.

After repeated delays in Prestel set deliveries, which in turn forced a postponement last autumn of the Post Office's big advertising campaign, set manufacturers are apparently producing at a rate adequate to meet the expected demand.

This rate had been expected to total "over 900 sets a week" from four main manufacturers

before March but it has now been trimmed to "about 600". The cut is attributed mainly to shortages of the appropriate microcircuits. More than 50,000 sets, it is estimated, will be made this year.

In parallel with the introduction of the service in the United Kingdom, the Prestel system has been sold by the Post Office to West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Nord-Holland.

Now the Post Office is taking this important step further. It is exploring the potential overseas use of the United

Kingdom Prestel service. It has mounted a trial in which 250 Prestel sets will be used, mainly by multinational companies, in Sweden, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

Overseas users will have access to information of which kinds, all held on a computer in London. There will be a general database of international information, available to all; special purpose information restricted to users who choose to pay extra for it; and private systems, confined to individual organizations.

Hertz is building up a credit-card information processing system as part of the inter-

national Prestel trial; and Trust Houses Forte is compiling a database to show the availability of hotel rooms around the world. Lloyds of London is also producing a restricted use system. Other participants include ICI, BP and Chase Manhattan Bank.

Apart from consultancy, this is the first time the Post Office has marketed one of its services overseas (as distinct from licensing Prestel technology to overseas organizations). International Prestel could develop into a videodata equivalent of the BBC World Service, suggests Dr Alex Reid, director of Prestel.

"We want to build a continuing export business," says Dr Reid. "We need confirmation on the market demand; that the technical and operational problems can be resolved; and that cooperation from the foreign telecommunications authorities is forthcoming."

If positive answers are obtained on these three points, a decision to launch a commercial service is likely to be taken before the end of this year. The trial is being implemented for the Post Office under the management of Logica, the London consultancy which earlier had conducted a preliminary market analysis for the Post Office.

Domestically, the Post Office is about to start another market

trial which will help to determine the extent to which the corporation itself should get into the business of marketing Prestel receivers. Here the interest is in business videodata terminals rather than domestic television sets.

The trial will begin next month in Scotland, where 500 monochrome sets made by Pye TMC will be used in association with a Prestel computer, centre

Well placed to offer a business Prestel set

in Edinburgh. The trial structure will be based on a down payment followed by rental fees. "We'll charge a commercial price," says Dr Reid. "We feel the Post Office is well placed to offer a business Prestel set, as we offer other business equipment."

The corporation is also keeping its options open on the question of whether similarly to investigate the prospects of marketing adapters, which would enable users of ordinary

television sets to receive the Prestel pages. But Dr Reid is not enthusiastic. The adapter approach inherently gives a poorer-quality picture, he points out, and the economics are not as attractive as might be imagined.

However, it is receiving active Post Office attention. "We are looking at the possibility of a small Prestel set that incorporates a telephone," Dr Reid says. This would be a small, desktop unit, and if a decision was taken to go ahead the unit would be developed by a selected company on behalf of the corporation.

Overall, Dr Reid concludes, "we are trying to build a soundly based information industry for the 1980s. We aim to place tens of thousands of Prestel sets in 1980—and millions in the 1980s."

The Post Office has invested about £10m in its Prestel development so far, but Dr Reid is doubtful of the true value of the French-style "grand gesture" of making large numbers of new-technology sets available free to subscribers. He is against grand gestures not only because of the cost but also in order to build up a healthy industry based on many individual judgments, and on realistic assessments of what the market really wants.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Kilmarnock's bitter harvest • Oil birds

The employees of the Massey-Ferguson combine harvester plant at Kilmarnock are today added to the names of those from Singer, Prestcold and Goodgear on the roll-call of multinational casualties in the West of Scotland. With today's close down 1,000 jobs will disappear immediately, to be followed by another 500 by the end of May.

The international search for alternative work launched by the company has yet to yield a positive offer. The keenest interest in the huge Kilmarnock plant has come from the consortium of British business men, led by Alan Curtis, joint chairman of Aston Martin, which is bidding for the MG car.

They have visited the factory and could well convert it for sports car production if negotiations give them the MG marque without BL's Abingdon factory, where the cars are now produced.

Aston Martin would require 1,500 workers which by happy coincidence is the total thrown out of work at Kilmarnock. Sam Kay, convener of shop stewards, told Business Diary yesterday that the factory was working right up to the last minute. They had set up their own company to serve local industry and this had resulted in two contracts to make spare parts—for Massey-Ferguson. Negotiations were in hand with several other companies but so far only 54 men could be employed.

Among the other approaches was one from Maharishi Yogi, a transcendental meditation movement which had £5m to invest. Unfortunately, M-F had no product in which the money could be sunk so this divine intervention came to naught.

"Eight oil companies have formed a North Sea Bird Club" (it says in an announcement from BP) "providing a recreational interest for men employed on offshore installations and to encourage interest in birds and their environment."

The chairman of BP Petroleum Development, his deputy is Robin Cox of Phillips and the secretary is Sam Alexander of Chevron.

Bird movements will be observed by club members working on fixed production platforms, and sent to Professor George Danner for computer calculation and analysis at the University of Aberdeen's zoology department.

BNOC, Shell, Conoco, Mobil and Occidental are the other five companies which showed up at the meeting.

"This development" BP says "is seen as providing a major stimulus to British ornithology comparable with the setting up of the Chan of bird observatories around our coasts in the immediate post-war era" (that is, after the war—Ed).

It's a fair bet that Saburo Okita is having talks with Yoshio Ikeda and/or Toshikuni Yahiro at the moment.

Dr Okita is the Japanese Foreign Minister and Ikeda and Yahiro are the chairman and president respectively of Japan's Mitsui trading company.

The problem is that Dr Okita at the moment would prefer not to upset either the Iranian head of state, Ayatollah Khomeini, or the United States opposite number.

It is difficult, however, to keep both parties happy right now. Thus, in deference to the Americans and in line with the preference of Dr Okita, the Mitsui men recently withdrew the team of engineers that had



It's the thought that counts: oil-soaked, guillemots, after cleansing by the RSPCA, refused to go back to sea.

been building a big petrochemical plant. It was, however, when two weeks ago optimistic sounds about the release of the American Embassy captives began to be heard, the team was sent back in deference to Khomeini.

The Japanese team was all in place in Iran, and according to reports reaching Business Diary, was only waiting for Wednesday night's broadcast by President Carter, when it was thought—mistakenly—he would say that the American hostages would soon be on their way home.

Either "Japan Inc", the business-government coordination team, feared by the U.S.C.I., doesn't exist or it is in a somewhat haphazard fashion.

Patent joke at the West End, London headquarters of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) is that their insurance business is paying better than their travel business.

Of the two I can tell, one concerns the recent signing of two snow-ploughs at Muscat, whereby, no doubt hangs another tale—and if any Business Diary reader can tell more, then please get in touch.

The second tale concerns the society of the Bahrain authorities eager to interview an American gentleman or to forget about him completely.

He ran up bills of breathtaking proportions there entertaining the local gentry in pursuit of a scheme to import liquid manure. He then left, before paying the bills, but about the same time as the Bahrainis got out their abacus and discovered that he had set up a deal to cover Bahrain's 255 sq miles to a depth of 12 feet.

Television viewers will soon see film of burly men apparently shouting away large sums of money from the offices of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors in Portugal Street, London. Suggestions that they resemble building union leaders making empty gestures after successfully pressing their present pay claim of at least 25 per cent have been discounted. No, the men are TV actors, who recently used the exterior of the federation's offices to stage an armed raid for a cops and robbers series. It is called The Gentle Touch and begins in April on London Weekend.

Ross Davies

Guinness Peat

INTERIM STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL 1980

The unaudited trading figures are as follows:—

	6 months to 31st October 1979	6 months to 31st October 1978	Year ended 30th April 1979
TURNOVER	8000	5000	6000
Sales, Brokerage & Fee Income	286,695	213,555	435,649
PROFITS ON TRADING	10,004	3,854	12,985
less: Central Costs	476	384	709
Non-trading interest	3,308	1,619	4,512
TRADING PROFITS BEFORE TAXATION	6,220	1,851	7,764

The unaudited accounts for the first half of the current year show that trading profits before taxation have increased substantially compared with the corresponding period of last year, when they were unusually low. Banking profits for the year to date show an increase compared with last year.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.75p per share on the ordinary shares which compares with the 2.25p per share for the same period last year, an increase of 22%. This dividend, which will absorb £1,808,185 (last year, £1,471,598), will be paid on the 25th March 1980 to ordinary shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 6th March 1980. Dealings in the shares will be suspended from the 25th February 1980.

Guinness Peat Group Limited

COMMODITY BROKING AND GENERAL TRADING, INVESTMENT, MERCHANT BANKING, MONEY BROKING, INTERNATIONAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATION, TRANSPORTATION AND INSURANCE BROKING.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Howard Machinery in second-half plunge

By Rosemary Unsworth

Howard Machinery's results made a disappointing reading with the full-year profits almost halved, despite good progress at the interim stage.

Pre-tax profits were down from £2.28m to £1.2m while turnover rose 9 per cent to £85.4m in the year to October 31, 1979. This follows a jump in profits at the halfway stage from £96,000 to £484,000.

The extent of the City's disappointment was marked by a 4p fall in the share price to 18p after the announcement.

The downturn was caused by three different areas of the group's business. The engine division of the group's American subsidiary, which handles Ford industrial engines for use in leisure power boats, was hit by the United States economic and energy problems, while the German company which supplies rotavators failed to move its stock, which is traditionally built up during the year, for sales in September and October.

But the chairman, Mr Peter Coleclough, said that a management reorganization had put the company back into the black already.



Mr Peter Coleclough, chairman of Howard Machinery.

The United Kingdom rotavator division also suffered from overcapacity during the year.

In addition, the group is close to completing negotiations for the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Howard Harvester, a Suffolk-based company which makes automated livestock feeding system and storage units for

industry. Control will pass to the Illinois-based A. O. Smith Harvester Products although the United Kingdom management will remain unchanged.

The French, Australian and J. Mann operations contributed improved profits during the year and France was also a major source of the overseas tax charge, which fell from £1m to £212,000 during the year. The previous year the German company was responsible for the higher tax charge, Mr Coleclough pointed out. Deferred tax amounted to £194,000 compared to £435,000, and the board said that United Kingdom deferred tax is not now provided where there is no reasonable possibility that such tax will be payable in the foreseeable future.

Despite a warning earlier in the year that the final dividend would be reduced to conserve funds to meet a market recovery, the proposed final has been maintained at 0.84p gross, which, with the interim of 0.82p gross, makes a total of 1.66p—the same as the previous year. Mr Coleclough said that it was not "a tremendous sum" to pay to shareholders.

Stock markets

Rally fades as the profit-takers move in

Industrial worries finally put paid to the market's recent optimistic appearance yesterday as buyers took their profits.

Equities again proved the dominant force, although after early interest, in which some selective buying was encountered, business tended to turn quiet by around midday.

So once again, the stage was left to the speculative second-liners and takeover situations where there appeared no shortage of customers intent on making a quick profit.

However, even some of these had lost some of their appeal by the close of official business as the profit-takers began to move in.

Oil had a fairly quiet day, following their recent performance as did gold, where the bullion price slipped \$27.50 to \$667.50.

By 3 pm, the FT Index showed only a 1.0 rise, after opening 6.6 up.

Gilt, too, had a much quieter time following the previous day's hectic buying which had pushed up prices by as much as £2 in some issues.

After a fairly firm start, business began to fizzle out with little if any attention given to the money supply figures which were more or less on target.

Nevertheless, rises of between £1 and £1½ in long bonds began to fade, but that by the close must have been unchanged on the day. At the shorter end of the market, things were a little worse as news that delegates of the craftsmen's union in the steel dispute had rejected the recent pay offer of 14 per cent.

As a result, falls of about an £1 to £1½ were soon being registered. The news of the steelmen's decision also had an impact on the equity market after hours as jobs were deemed to be safer rather than sorry and marked prices lower. In the event, the FT Index tumbled 4.9, to close at 473.9.

Furness Withy was the market's start-up of the day following the bid from C. V. Tung, a 360p share. The price shot up to over 400p as soon as trading commenced in

the morning and it was the most actively traded share all day. In the end, it closed 3p up at 368p, leading the way for a generally firm shipping sector. Fashion & General leapt 40p to 205p, accompanied by Scottish and Mercantile, 18p stronger at 138p and Ocean Wilsons unchanged at 88p, all with stakes in Furness.

Shares of P & O DTD gained some comfort from the interest being expressed in Furness, too, rising 2p to 121p, while European Ferries was 3p firmer at 118p.

The final blow in the battle

Jewellery group Ratners has been a weak market lately falling from a year's high of 16p to 50p. However, some buying at this lower level raised the shares 3p yesterday to 53p, where they still look an interesting situation.

for Deccas was delivered late on in the afternoon, when Rascal made its third and final offer which most observers believe will be enough to give Rascal the victory it had fought so hard for. But on hearing the latest terms, shares of Rascal plunged 20p to 207p, as Decca fell 15p to 580p in the ordinary,

while the "A" rose 32p to 481p. GEC was 3p easier at 386p. Ferranti remained optimistic about further takeover prospects and edged ahead 3p to 522p, but Plessey dipped 10p to 141p. Another bid hopeful, Berc rose 7p to 123p on hopes of an approach from overseas, as MK Electric rose 3p to 198p in a thin market.

Elsewhere on the bid front, Armitage Shanks advanced 7p to 107p, as Ceramics Investments increased its stake, while Blue Circle rose 4p to 322p on the news that it would not be making a full-scale bid. Comp Air was unchanged at 102p, after its bid approach and suitor Imperial Continental Gas recovered some earlier losses, rising 3p to 750p.

Speculative interest was good enough for rises among some of the second-liners, which included De Vere Hotels 18p to 213p, Martonair, 2p to 210p, Skethley 14p to 270p and Gill & Duffus 9p to 141p. De La Rue was active in a thin market, rising 20p to 640p, while the recent increase in coal provided Burnett & Halliwell with a 10p rise to 45p.

Stores came in for a battering after hours on a warning on profits from the chairman of Freeman's which knocked the

price 20p to 132p. This, in turn, hit GUS "A" 5p to 398p, Grattan 4p to 94p and Empire Stores 10p to 168p.

The engineering sector held up relatively well to the latest news in the steel strike with Metal Box unchanged at 264p and Vickers only 1p off at 135p. Investment buying pushed Advest 7p higher at 185p and Tubes 10p to 312p, but Howard Machinery fell 4p to 18p after some full-year figures which were lower than expected.

Imperial Group rose 2p to 84p after its profits announcement, while William Whittingham jumped 7p to 110p after its 76 per cent profits leap. Leading industrials closed on the bottom in after-hours, although very little selling was reported. Dunlop dipped 3p to 67p on profit-taking, with dealers surprised at how well the price had stood up despite the demand that it was about to sell its plantation interests to Guthrie.

Grand Met lost an earlier 3p rise after its AGM and the price finished all square at 139p. Unilever fell 7p to 463p, and ICI dipped 5p to 386p while Glaxo at 256p and Fisons at 302p both shed 2p a piece.

Profit-taking knocked rubbers for six with Guthrie leading the

way with a 33p fall to 835p accompanied by Castlefield 13p to 532p, London Sumatra 17p to 441p and Highlands & Lowlands 3p to 114p. Only Killinhalpin 20p higher at 545p managed to go against the trend.

Oil also encountered profit-taking after the recent good ride. Among the majors, BP fell 13p to 406p, Shell eased 6p to 382p and Ultramar retreated 2p to 484p. Iasmo encountered more speculative buying among second-liners, rising 7p to 503p and continuing its recent swim against the tide. Premier Cans at 791p, and Charterhall at 761p, were both 3p lighter but International Thomson was 24p heavier at 492p in a thin market.

Mining financials also lost some of their earlier glitter as the profit-takers moved in, with Cons Gold 8p off at 512p and R.T.Z. 15p lighter at 468p despite bid rumours from the US. Selection Trust rose 2p to 790p, along with De Beers an \$1 higher at \$121. But Charter Cans, also stalked by bid rumours, dipped 5p to 189.

House of Fraser, the "Harrods" stores group where Mr Roland "Toby" Rowland has a near-30 per cent stake, has been put on the speculative shopping list again. The price jumped 1p in two days to 144p amid hopes that Mr Rowland could soon make his move. But any decision on whether a full bid will be made is still unlikely to be made until after the Rhodesian elections.

Banks had a mainly mixed appearance ahead of their reporting season with Barclays up 3p to 451p, and Lloyds 1p firmer at 316p. National Westminster was unchanged at 373p but Midland fell 7p to 373p.

Properties were generally firmer with some good gains in places, but insurers were easier where changed.

Equity turnover on February 13, was £154.04m (19,198 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Furness Withy, Consolidated Gold Fields, R.T.Z., BP, Iasmo Imperial Group, and Premier Cans.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Int or Fin						
Ass Frnt Tr (F) (d) 1.6(8.4)	0.21(2.3)	—	—	5.0(10.0)	4/4	5.0(10.0)
Ariel Indests (I)	0.42(0.2)	—	—	1.08(0.93)	18/4	—
Buistry (I)	1.00(0.43)	—	—	1.0(0.8)	18/4	—
R. Douglas Edgds (I)	47.4(36.2)	1.1(1.6)	6.7(13.1)	1.1(0.9)	8/4	—
Amec Bond (I)	—	0.21(0.07)	27.8(9.3)	4.87(4.87)	15/4	—
Go P. G. (I)	—	0.1(0.32)	—	0.6(0.4)	10/4	6.9(5.4)
Guidhall Property (I)	—	0.49(0.37)	—	0.75(0.6)	1/4	—
Howard Machine (F)	85.4(78.4)	1.2(2.1)	3.1(2.5)	0.59(0.59)	15/2	1.17(1.12)
Imperial Group (F)	3,822.0(3,432.0)	128.7(131.1)	17.4(18.5)	4.5(4.0)	—	7.25(6.32)
Kinta Mtr (I)	—	0.14(0.12)	—	1.5(1.0)	—	—
Landshore & Son (F)	—	0.2(0.2)	—	2.2(2.0)	20/3	—
Malaysia Rubber (I)	—	—	—	1.0(0.75)	2/4	—
Ramar Text (I) (a)	7.1(4.7)	0.20(0.09)	—	—	—	—
River & Mercantile (F)	—	2.9(2.3)	13.7(10.3)	8.0(6.0)	31/3	12.86(9.5)
Rymer Inv Trst (F)	—	1.3(0.0)	9.9(1.56)	0.61(0.61)	3/4	9.0(7.0)
Thurgate St. Gwth (I)	—	—	—	1.4(1.15)	9/4	2.33(1.7)
Tribune Inv Trst (F)	—	1.4(1.1)	3.0(2.27)	4.0(2.0)	30/4	6.0(2.0)
W. Whittingham (F)	20.8(15.5)	2.2(1.2)	28.2(18.2)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=27 weeks; b=9 months; c=special dividend.

Options

Special situations dominated proceedings in traded options yesterday, where total contracts rose from 1,145 to 1,783.

Some active two-way trade was witnessed in Imperial Group following its preliminary figures with some 508 contracts completed. The February 80p series came for some active support with 246 contracts. Rascal prompted some interest as well, although trade was halted towards the end to allow time for the latest counter-bid to be fully digested. BP was another active participant in the buoyant oil scene.

Traditional options, on the other hand, had another quiet session, "puts" being arranged in Western Areas, Harmony and North Kalguri.

Mooloya under investigation

By Philip Robinson

The Stock Exchange has launched an investigation into the share dealings of Mooloya Investments which yesterday changed its chairman and whose shares were suspended at 84p on December 28 last year.

The group has also been told by the trustees of its 12 per cent 1986/88 loan stock to immediately repay the outstanding £600,000 to the 250 stockholders—some with stakes of more than £100,000.

Trustees, the Law Debenture Corporation, say their request follows serious breaches of several covenants in the trust deeds. Requests to repay loan

stock before redemption are rare.

A spokesman for Law Debenture said last night: "a professional trustee is very fully monitoring the terms of the trusts and the financial status of the company on behalf of those for whom we act."

The Stock Exchange probe will cover dealings in Mooloya shares from January 1, 1979. It will also cover deals done since the suspension.

announced that Mr Barry Hersh has left the board after selling his entire 100,000 shares to Mr Christopher Baldwin who now controls 23 per cent of the shares and is acting chairman.

Mr Hersh, who was investigated by the Stock Exchange, will cover Mooloya's offer for the outstanding shares of stretch cover group Customagic, the attempted takeover of Nunnery Holdings and Mr Hersh's share sale to Mr Baldwin.

Mooloya last accounts were filed on February 3, 1978. Accounts are now due for the period to April 30, 1979.

Former Mooloya chairman Mr Michael Campbell, who remains a director said yesterday: "I have not been told of a Stock Exchange inquiry. I have no comment to make on the repayment of the loan stock. The board are considering the situation. Our accounts are now at an advanced stage of completion."

No cuts at Grand Metropolitan

Grand Metropolitan has decided against capital spending cuts this year, despite its views that the outlook for consumer spending is distinctly gloomy.

Mr Maxwell Joseph, the chairman, says in the annual report that the board recently considered whether capital programmes should be reduced to produce a positive cash flow until the outlook clears.

"The board has decided, however, that it is in both shareholders' and the country's interests to continue to develop plans, provided that they operate within sound financial limits," he said.

Grand Met's current spending plans will probably involve spending in the region of £150m against £125m last year.

national and Rank Industries Australia. There are expected to achieve significant improvements during the next five years.

R M Douglas slips

In spite of the turnover of Robert M. Douglas Holdings rising from £36.26m to £47.4m in the half-year to end-Sept, pretax profits slid from £1.65m to £1.15m.

After a year of losses, pretax profits are down from 13.1p to 6.7p, the interim dividend, gross, is being raised from 1.44p to 1.57p. The board expects the total payment to be "in the order" of 6.42p, against 5.16p. Comparisons have been restated.

Britain and the United States.

Although Tilling is borrowing in America to pay for Glasco, the loan will be backed with the £57m rights issue money raised last May.

In the past two years Tilling has spent £108m on United States acquisitions and the American proportion of group assets now stands at 25 per cent.

Since the rights issue, the group has spent £1.5m on Navy Manufacturing and £30m on superior Iron Works & Supply of Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr Meaney says that there are other acquisitions planned, both in Britain and America.

First-half jump at Ramar Textiles

In the 27 weeks to November 2, the profits of Ramar Textiles jumped to £200,000—more than double the £90,000 for the first 26 weeks of the previous year. Turnover was up from £4.77m to £7.1m. Pre-tax profits for the full year 1979-79 reached £285,000.

Ramar's board will view the remainder of the year with caution because of the continuing downturn in retail sales and the current climate of industrial unrest. Inflation is also putting pressure on margins.

Shelvoke & Drewry white remain-

ing chairman and will also be taking the chairmanship of a number of other companies in the Butterfield Harvey Group. Mr Frederick Osoy joins the board of Shelvoke & Drewry as managing director.

Dr H. Peter Jost and Mr J. G. Mervett have been appointed directors of Oil Separators International.

Mr G. A. M. Orniston has been appointed an associate director of Kirkland-Whittaker (Sterling Brokers).

Sir Leo Platitzky has been appointed a director of Associated Communications Corporation.

Mr Frederick P. Turner has been appointed assistant managing director of Rank Film Distributors and Mr Clive Sutton joins the board as deputy director.

Mr Derek Richard Chapman, managing director of Thomas Cook Bankers has been elected to the board of the Thomas Cook Group.

Mr J. R. Clark has been appointed to the board of Pentos,

Dutch group buys more of Armitage Shanks

Ceramics Investments, the Dutch-based group which is Armitage Shanks's major shareholder, yesterday boosted its stake from 25 per cent to nearly 28 per cent, by buying shares on the market at 103p, 104p and 107p.

The final total amounted to a holding of more than eight million shares, but Ceramics's London adviser, Mr Keith Hemer, repeated its intention of not making a counter-bid for the sanitary ware manufacturer.

Blue Circle Industries has made a £33m agreed offer for the group, which reaches its first closing date next week.

Blue Circle responded to the purchase by saying that it intended to declare the offer unconditional as soon as acceptances went over the 50 per cent level.

In a letter to shareholders, BCI's financial advisers, Baring Brothers, said that if Ceramics accepts the offer and it becomes unconditional, the Lebanese-backed group will be welcomed as a significant shareholder in BCI.

If it chooses not to accept, Ceramics will remain minority shareholder in Armitage.

The letter also pointed out that the all-share offer now made each Armitage share 106p.

The 2 4per cent rise in cement prices, announced earlier in the week, will help the recovery of increasing costs, but will also permit an improvement in the return on the company's home cement operations, said Baring.

Mr Hamer said Ceramics's decision whether to remain as a minority shareholder in Armitage would depend on the response made by other shareholders, although the group may continue to buy Armitage shares in the hope of securing an improved offer from BCI.

Mr Derek Oram has been named as director of personnel of Quaker Oats.

Mr Derek Oram has been named as managing director of Fry's Diecastings. Mr Denis Barrington retains his position as company secretary and is appointed administrative director.

Mr P. G. Hopwood has been named as managing director of Dornier Drills (Sheffield).

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAND EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

POTENTIAL NEW GOLD MINE

A preliminary feasibility study of the area west and south of Sallies previous mine workings, and centred on the old No. 5 shaft of Van Dyk Consolidated Mines Limited, has delineated a potential gold mine.

The directors of this company have accordingly voted an amount of R1550,000, to be met by the company from existing funds, for the purpose of a detailed feasibility study to determine how such a mine should be financed and operated. This will include the construction of a house to facilitate an examination of the Van Dyk No. 5 shaft, in order to ascertain its condition and what equipping would be necessary. Agreement for the use of the shaft for that purpose has been reached with the Anglo-Alpha group, the present holders of the relevant mine rights.

The detailed feasibility study should be ready in the latter part of this year, when a final decision can be made on the opening up of a new mine from the Van Dyk No. 5 shaft and on the initial scale of operations. In the event of it being decided to proceed with such a scheme, the abovementioned agreement makes provision for the acquisition of the shaft.

It is possible that such a mine will eventually incorporate some of the Witkop area, where the surface drilling programme has yielded inconclusive results. This programme is to be suspended as soon as a scheme, the last deflection in borehole SRK-1 has been completed.

Copies of this announcement are being sent to all registered shareholders.

By order of the board

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Secretaries

per: R. V. C. Asherwood

Companies Secretary

Johannesburg.

15th February, 1980.

Do you import capital goods from Spain?

Banco Español en Londres, in conjunction with the Banco Exterior de España, Madrid, is offering loan facilities for up to 5 years at low preferential rates of interest (9% p.a.). This line of credit should prove of particular interest to British importers of Spanish capital goods.

For further information please contact the Marketing Manager at the Head Office of the Banco Español en Londres at 60 London Wall, London EC2, tel. 628 8714.

BANCO ESPAÑOL EN LONDRES

1771 925 054 FF

which represents an improvement of 10.04% in comparison with the previous year.

The consolidated turnover (approximately, before some minor adjustments) reached

2 116 187 265 FF

against 1 860 130 156 in 1978, an increase of 7.93%.

A) NON CONSOLIDATED The non consolidated turnover after tax for 1979 amounted to

1 771 925 054 FF

which represents an improvement of 10.04% in comparison with the previous year.

B) The consolidated turnover (approximately, before some minor adjustments) reached

2 116 187 265 FF

against 1 860 130 156 in 1978, an increase of 7.93%.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT
Record sales, profit and dividend

Results for year to 30th September	1979	1978
Turnover	£000's	£000's
Profit before tax	26,501 +33%	19,991
Profit after tax	3,324 +38%	2,415
Earnings per share	38.8p +38%	28.1p
Dividends per share (gross)	10.4p +46%	7.1p

All Divisions produced improved results. Crutch output was at record levels.

The Group is in a strong liquid position, and the Directors are actively seeking ways to better utilise some of these resources in investments which have commercial logic.

The current year began with very good order books. There has been no slackening of demand for our coach bodies in the U.K., and we have an adequate supply of chassis. If the country is spared a repetition of the industrial problems and the unusually bad weather conditions of last winter, there is confidence that we will have a successful year.

Copies of the full report & accounts are available from the Secretary.

Please write to: Plaxtons Limited, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 1

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

CRA's net earnings jump by 76 pc

By Michael Peart
Only a day after a major buyer was looking for shares in Rio Tinto-Zinc, one of the mining company's biggest subsidiaries, CRA has announced that its profits rose 76 per cent last year.

CRA's consolidated net earnings climbed from £577m to £1,025m (£64.3m). The increase in revenue came mainly from higher metal prices and from the extra uranium sold in 1979 by Mary Kathleen Uranium, Australia's biggest operating uranium mine.

But higher revenue from most of CRA's operations, which include coal, copper, iron ore, zinc and gold, also allowed the Government to take much more in tax. Income tax was £153.5m compared with £52.3m in 1978, while Government royalties rose from £29.8m to £57.5m.

Earnings per share were 38 cents, against 27.9 cents, while earnings as a percentage of shareholders' funds, now £1.17, went up from 10.9 to 11.5 before extraordinary items. Total spending, which includes exploration and investments, was £450.6m instead of £233.9m.

The latest figures incorporate results from the wholly-owned subsidiary, Australian Mining & Smelting. This lead and zinc miner and refiner raised consolidated earnings from £18.1m to £56.2m. Despite a fall in grades, the Broken Hill lead mine achieved record output.

Zinc, however, tended to suffer from weakening demand in the second half of the year. A rough balance between demand and supply of zinc in the first half was followed in the next six months by an accumulation of stocks.

CRA warns that despite the political and economic advantages Australia enjoys as a producer of raw materials, 1980's profits will be determined by metal prices and exchange rates.



Photograph by John Manning

The reaction of the Serck engineering group to strikes and the declining economy were outlined at yesterday's annual meeting in Birmingham by Mr. Robin Martin, the chairman, pictured on the right, talking to Mr. John Pinckard, the chief executive.

Mr. Martin said the aftermath of the national engineering strike and the current increase in interest charges had a retarding effect on the group's results so far this year. Depending upon its duration, the national

steel strike could eventually affect the group, but the previously forecasted recovery for the year remains in prospect.

New SE rules for overseas deals

New proposed rules for dealing in overseas securities were published by the Stock Exchange yesterday. This follows the council's debate last week on revisions which will allow jobbers wider access to members of stock exchanges abroad.

The council plans to define overseas securities through a definition of domestic securities, and thus establish what are non-domestic securities by exclusion. Comments are invited by March 14.

But it refused to accept the argument that the new rules were discriminatory by allowing dual capacity dealing to jobbers, while not extending the same possibility to brokers. It said that dual capacity meant that firms whose business is to act as principals are allowed to deal in the same securities direct with clients.

Jobbers are to be allowed to deal with a limited number of non-members overseas under the council's control, and only when such members or firms

are dealing as principals. They will also be permitted direct access to other securities markets where brokers have orders in an overseas security must deal with a jobber member firm, unless they can deal on better terms elsewhere in the world.

The council admits that this may be difficult on occasions, but is essential if overseas securities' business is to be built up again in the Stock Exchange.

I. C. GAS-COMPAIR
Imperial Continental Gas, which is bidding for CompAir, has bought almost 5 per cent of the equity of CompAir in the market.

ARIEL INDUSTRIES
Turnover for half-year to Sept 30 up from £3.44m to £3.94m and profit from £0.89m to £1.07m, but earnings per share fell from 1.54p to 1.39p. Taxable profits for the whole of 1978-79 reached a record £811,000. The board is lifting the interim dividend, gross, from 0.89p to 1.07p, but warns it must not be assumed that the same rate of increase will be reflected in the final.

REED INTERNATIONAL
Reed Paper, Reed International's Canadian subsidiary, reports that holders of debentures of its off-shoot, Reed Ltd, have accepted Reed Ltd's offer to accelerate maturity of their debentures to Feb 28 next. Matured par value of debentures will be about \$115m.

ENGLISH ASSOCIATION
Pre-tax profits of English Association of American Bond and Share Holders jumped from £77,000 to £218,000 in half-year to Dec 31. Interim payment unchanged at 6.56p gross.

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LET THE GIN BE
HIGH & DRY!

Really Dry Gin



Stock Exchange Prices Equities retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22, 23 Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Foord
plant and machinery valuers

1979/80 High Low Company Price Ch/g Pence % P/E				1979/80 High Low Company Price Ch/g Pence % P/E				1979/80 High Low Company Price Ch/g Pence % P/E				1979/80 High Low Company Price Ch/g Pence % P/E			
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مکان الأهل

United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers and Another v. Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Diplock, Lord Macmillan, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Scarman.

Tel. 030 57-75300

[illegible]

Motoring

Emergency aid centre on the Continent

Boulogne in February is almost deserted and like all seaside towns out of season a little forlorn, but come July and August its streets will be choked with cars, many of them British and just leaving, or about to catch, the ferries and the hovercraft.

By then a small and unpretentious office in the car ferry terminal will be manned round the clock, awaiting calls for help from British motorists who have broken down, had an accident, fallen ill, run out of money or otherwise found themselves in distress.

At the height of the holiday season, the English-speaking staff will handle 100 calls a day and armed with telephone numbers, lists of garages, maps and other aids will do their best to come up with the right sort of help or advice.

The office is the Automobile Association's continental emergency centre, the clearing house for claims on the 5-Star touring policy, or other forms of AA insurance, or simply a shoulder for Britons in trouble to cry on. No reasonable request is turned away.

The man in charge is Mr Maurice Grogan, an Englishman, although almost in nationality only, for he has spent most of his life in France, has a French wife, children with dual nationality and French grandchildren. His father came to France after the First World War, when prospects for work in Britain were not encouraging, and stayed to start a chauffeur business.

The Grogan connexion with the AA is long standing and unusual in that Mr Grogan has his own company which acts as the AA's agent. He likes to think of himself as a small workshop, as opposed to a factory, able to give personal service.

When he took over the job, his father gave him this advice: "Remember that the man at the end of the telephone is only the father. There is a mother, who is furious at him for the spoiled holiday, and probably two screaming kids as well." It is something he tries never to forget.

As an example of the personal touch, Mr Grogan makes a point of keeping in contact with people in hospital, ringing a member of the family every couple of days or so to find out how the patient is progressing. "There must be a flow of sympathy with the person in trouble," he says.

Although he calls on official channels of help, from the British Embassy in Paris downwards, Mr Grogan also relies on personal contacts he has built up over the years. It is a kind of French equivalent of the old boy net. It seems to work and goodness knows what the AA will do when Mr Grogan can no longer run it.

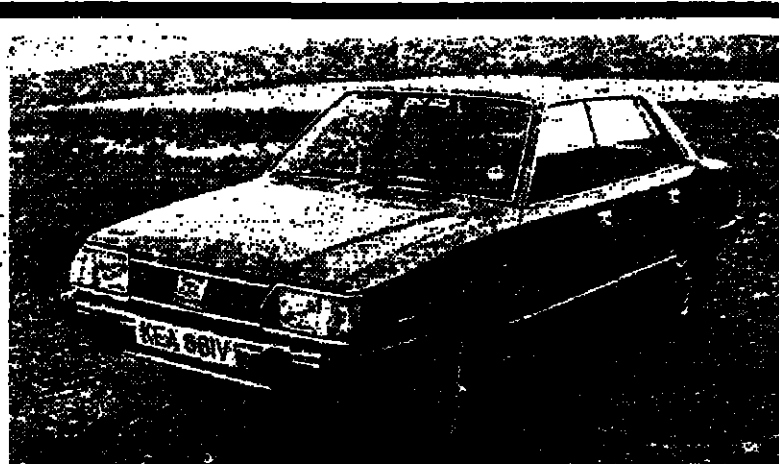
In the context of motoring abroad, one tends to think of the AA and Royal Automobile Club, but coming up fast is a third organization called Europ Assistance. A French company based in Paris, it opened a British office in 1973 which, after a quiet start, increased turnover sixfold between 1976 and 1979.

Like the AA and RAC, Europ Assistance provides continental insurance for British motorists and claims to have overtaken the RAC in the number of policies issued. A survey taken last year at Dover suggested that the AA had 36 per cent of the market, Europ Assistance 17 per cent and the RAC 13; with 26 per cent of motorists having no special cover (but the AA says it has three times the business of any other company).

Europ Assistance, with its French parentage, is able to call upon 2,000 agents in France alone and with the aid of a computer at its headquarters in Croydon can trace sources of help throughout Europe, from Spain to the Urals. It takes particular pride in its medical cover, once even flying out contraceptives. "You made our holiday", was the grateful comment.

Road test: Subaru 1600 4WD

Here is a singular car on the British market, a saloon with four-wheel drive. On the road it can be used normally, with the engine driving just the front wheels, while off the road, or in snow and ice, power can be extended to the back wheels as well. Subaru see the car as meeting the needs of people like



On its own—the Subaru four-wheel drive saloon.

farmers, doctors and vets, whose work takes them off the beaten track, as well as caravanners, fishermen and owners of small boats.

The car is fitted with radial tyres designed to cope with mud and snow, bumper overriders and a guard for the front air dam and rear mud flaps. Ground clearance is nearly an inch and a half higher than on the two-wheel-drive saloon. Perhaps more important than any of these, the car has lower gearing to increase pulling power on difficult surfaces.

Four-wheel drive is engaged simply by working a small lever by the gearstick and that can be done while the car is moving up to 50 mph in a straight line. Helped by synchromesh, the change is imperceptible. Although unlike most other cross-country vehicles, the

Subaru offers only one set of gear ratios, it can cope with a variety of inclines, potholes and muddy fields.

The potential owner, however, will have to ask himself how much of the time he is going to use the car in such conditions, for, considered as an orthodox road vehicle, the Subaru is less impressive.

On paper it has a lot to commend it: a flat-four alloy engine, front-wheel drive, rack-and-pinion steering and independent rear suspension. Outside the Honda range few Japanese models can boast such advanced engineering. Unfortunately, little of that comes through in driving.

Lightweight engines, for instance, are often associated with brisk performance and good fuel economy, but the Subaru gives neither. Admittedly the lower gearing for

four-wheel drive has not helped: even so, a 1600cc engine in a car 10in shorter than a Ford Cortina should have better acceleration through the gears (0 to 60 mph in 17 seconds is more like the performance of a one litre) and more flexibility.

Once "wound up" the car cruises easily enough, although the engine could be quieter. And that mediocre performance is not compensated by low fuel consumption. My returns of 23 to 28 mpg compare unfavourably with most other cars in the class. Two points in mitigation are that performance and economy are little affected by the switch to four-wheel drive and that the car will run on tyre-spare fuel.

The advanced specification brings further disappointments in the areas of ride and handling. Rack-and-pinion steering systems are generally very precise but this one has the typically Japanese dead feel which can be a little disconcerting when trying to keep the car steady in strong crosswinds. Cornering, in the circumstances, is heavily crisp, with a certain amount of body roll and a tendency to be jogged off line by uneven surfaces. There is, however, an agreeably smooth gear-change. Ride quality, despite the all-independent suspension, is no more than average and it needs only the slightest bump to set up road noise.

The main criticism inside the car is a very low driving seat which, together with insufficient back adjustment, gave me, at any rate, an uncomfortable position. Nor do the seats give enough side support. As on some other Japanese cars, the front door opening is not large enough for a tall person, who will

also be pushed for head and leg-room in the back.

The Subaru four-wheel drive car is a compromise: good off the road, but less versatile than, say, a Land Rover, a disadvantage, but unsurprising, on the road. But as the only vehicle of its kind available, it has its appeal. The price is £4,983, or just under £1,000 more than the same car without four-wheel drive.

Muddle over endorsement

Ignoring a policeman's traffic signal is not only an offence, it is one carrying driving licence endorsement. Ignoring the directions of a traffic warden is also an offence but it is not endorsable, according to a ruling last week by the Divisional Court.

The ruling clarifies what has previously been a muddled area, with some courts ordering endorsement and others not. Just why a policeman's instruction should enjoy a different status from that of a parking warden seems hard to understand, but if that is the law motorists whose licences have been wrongly endorsed can feel aggrieved.

The matter is being taken up by the Automobile Association, which supported the appeal of a member that resulted in the Divisional Court decision. One way of expunging erroneous endorsements would be a Home Office directive to magistrates to ignore them when "tolling up" for disqualification, although it is open to individual motorists to make their representations.

Peter Waymark

CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

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New 525i auto, Reseda green from £55.61 p.w.
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The above figures are gross and subject to all tax conditions.

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1974 automatic, 4-door, 1600 cc, 115 bhp, 1700 cc, 130 bhp, 1900 cc, 150 bhp, 2000 cc, 180 bhp, 2200 cc, 200 bhp, 2500 cc, 220 bhp, 2800 cc, 240 bhp, 3000 cc, 260 bhp, 3500 cc, 300 bhp, 4000 cc, 320 bhp, 4500 cc, 350 bhp, 5000 cc, 380 bhp, 5500 cc, 400 bhp, 6000 cc, 420 bhp, 6500 cc, 450 bhp, 7000 cc, 480 bhp, 7500 cc, 500 bhp, 8000 cc, 520 bhp, 8500 cc, 550 bhp, 9000 cc, 580 bhp, 9500 cc, 600 bhp, 10000 cc, 620 bhp, 10500 cc, 650 bhp, 11000 cc, 680 bhp, 11500 cc, 700 bhp, 12000 cc, 720 bhp, 12500 cc, 750 bhp, 13000 cc, 780 bhp, 13500 cc, 800 bhp, 14000 cc, 820 bhp, 14500 cc, 850 bhp, 15000 cc, 880 bhp, 15500 cc, 900 bhp, 16000 cc, 920 bhp, 16500 cc, 950 bhp, 17000 cc, 980 bhp, 17500 cc, 1000 bhp, 18000 cc, 1020 bhp, 18500 cc, 1050 bhp, 19000 cc, 1080 bhp, 19500 cc, 1100 bhp, 20000 cc, 1120 bhp, 20500 cc, 1150 bhp, 21000 cc, 1180 bhp, 21500 cc, 1200 bhp, 22000 cc, 1220 bhp, 22500 cc, 1250 bhp, 23000 cc, 1280 bhp, 23500 cc, 1300 bhp, 24000 cc, 1320 bhp, 24500 cc, 1350 bhp, 25000 cc, 1380 bhp, 25500 cc, 1400 bhp, 26000 cc, 1420 bhp, 26500 cc, 1450 bhp, 27000 cc, 1480 bhp, 27500 cc, 1500 bhp, 28000 cc, 1520 bhp, 28500 cc, 1550 bhp, 29000 cc, 1580 bhp, 29500 cc, 1600 bhp, 30000 cc, 1620 bhp, 30500 cc, 1650 bhp, 31000 cc, 1680 bhp, 31500 cc, 1700 bhp, 32000 cc, 1720 bhp, 32500 cc, 1750 bhp, 33000 cc, 1780 bhp, 33500 cc, 1800 bhp, 34000 cc, 1820 bhp, 34500 cc, 1850 bhp, 35000 cc, 1880 bhp, 35500 cc, 1900 bhp, 36000 cc, 1920 bhp, 36500 cc, 1950 bhp, 37000 cc, 1980 bhp, 37500 cc, 2000 bhp, 38000 cc, 2020 bhp, 38500 cc, 2050 bhp, 39000 cc, 2080 bhp, 39500 cc, 2100 bhp, 40000 cc, 2120 bhp, 40500 cc, 2150 bhp, 41000 cc, 2180 bhp, 41500 cc, 2200 bhp, 42000 cc, 2220 bhp, 42500 cc, 2250 bhp, 43000 cc, 2280 bhp, 43500 cc, 2300 bhp, 44000 cc, 2320 bhp, 44500 cc, 2350 bhp, 45000 cc, 2380 bhp, 45500 cc, 2400 bhp, 46000 cc, 2420 bhp, 46500 cc, 2450 bhp, 47000 cc, 2480 bhp, 47500 cc, 2500 bhp, 48000 cc, 2520 bhp, 48500 cc, 2550 bhp, 49000 cc, 2580 bhp, 49500 cc, 2600 bhp, 50000 cc, 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PERSONAL CHOICE



Peter Fiddick in the Television Programme: all ITV regions at 12.30 except ATV which will show it next Monday

● The trail for Peter Fiddick's series (ITV, 12.30, except ATV) about the people who work on television and the tastes of people like you and me who merely watch it, has been blazed by London Mr Fiddick writes penetratingly about TV in *The Guardian*, and I fully expect to find that his seven-week elevation from small and inform us while continuing to administer a blow or two to grounds for rubbish. Today, Mr Fiddick talks to Esther Rantzen and examines that phenomenon called Coronation Street.

● St Valentine's Day plus one is just about right for tonight's Billy Cooper review *The British in Love* (BBC 2, 10.45). I have just read and hugely enjoyed the amorously autobiographical of the revue, and I only hope the BBC show is as sad and funny and sensual as the book. Rosemary Leach is the mistress of ceremonies, and the prose and poetry readers and singers include Richard Pascoe, Vivian Pickles, Marti Webb and Paul Hardwick.

● You will, I believe, have a heightened sense of gratitude for what successive interpreters have done to Mozart's music when you have finished watching Christopher Hogwood's illustrated lecture *Come Back Mozart* (BBC 2, 8.05). On the other hand, you may share Mr Hogwood's differing view. Adopting the analogy of a painting, he says 200 years of musical grime have been added to the master's original and in this programme, which is being shown for the second time, he attempts to restore the painting to its pristine state by making his orchestra play early instruments in the style that was then de rigueur.

● Earlier today, on Radio 3 (3.55), you can hear Mr Hogwood again comparing notes. This time, he recounts the 20th century indebtedness felt by Martinu to the 18th century Haydn, illustrating his point with records of the Czechoslovakian composer's Piano Trio No 2 and the Austrian composer's Symphony No 52. ... Today's H-FI Theatre presentation (Radio 4, 1.15) is Joan O'Connor's translation of Turgenev's *First Love*, about the long-lasting trauma of an adolescent romance. It stars Simon Cadell, Rosalind Ayres, John Carson and Hugh Dickson, and is directed by Jane Morgan who has collaborated with Miss O'Connor in the same capacity, on radio before. The Morgan-O'Connor partnership was responsible for radio versions of another Turgenev work, *Asya*, for adaptations of two Balzac works, *Cousin Bazille* and *Cousin Pons*, and for the radio production of *Red Rover*. The Birds Fall Down which which preceded the recent TV production.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Going to the Sun. Control System: 7.30 Modern in Chemistry. Close down at 7.55.

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Treffpunkt (jump). 9.25 Athlete (triple jump). 10.35 Look and Read: 10.35 Maths in a box. 10.35 Going to Work: 11.00 Hyv a Fyd 11.25 You and Me: For the very young. One for You, and One for Me (r).

11.40 Schools, Colleges: Maths (Play Now, Play Later). 12.05 pm Your Own Business (improving the environment). Close down at 12.30.

12.45 News and weather. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Song-writer Peter Skellern, with the Grimthorpe Colliery Band. Also holiday chime with Ian Lyon and gardening Peter Ashbrook at work on the Pebble Mill plot.

1.45 Minter Meir: The story of Mr Minter Meir. 2.00 Schools, Colleges: Scene (The Travellers). 2.35 A Good Job with Prospects (the planners). Close down at 3.00.

3.25 Pobel y Cwm: For Welsh speakers. 3.55 Play School: Ezra Jack Keats's story *The Snowy Day*. 4.20 *Roobach* and the Secret Squirrel: Cartoon. 4.30 Jackanory: Cyd Hayman con-

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Talking to Children. 7.05 Computers. 7.30 *Barrie Little Epique*. Close down at 7.55.

11.00 Play School: same as BBC 1. 3.55 Close down at 11.25.

4.50 Open University: Physical Chemistry and the Atom. 5.15 Fossil Vertebrate Distribution.

5.40 Harold Lloyd: Genuerous excerpts from another two of the hispiderous comedian's silent films. The Freshman and the Weakman. The superimposed commentary is both funny and un-necessary.

6.05 Cartoon Two: Cartoon from Czechoslovakia-Parade. 6.10 Monkey: Chinese fantasy, dubbed into English from the original Japanese. 6.55 *Della Smith's Cookery Course*: How to make a first-class spaghetti

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: *Brassic* Man (David Bellamy in New Zealand). 9.57 *St. John* (John Brinkley). 10.10 *Work* (unemployed). 10.27 *It's Your Future*. 10.48 *About Books*. 11.10 *Reading with Lenny*. 11.22 *Leapfrog* (mads). 11.39 *Believe it or Not* (Sikhs). 11.55 *Cartoon*: The Medicine Man.

12.00 A Handful of Songs: Young viewers' paintings and some songs from Maria Morgan and Keith Field.

1.00 pm On One Upon a Time: The story of the bear and the mushrooms (r).

12.30 The Television Programme: New series, presented by Peter Fiddick. The Guardian interview with Esther Rantzen, and clips from famous television programmes. (Personal Choice)

1.00 News. 1.25 *Thames News*. 1.30 *Together*: Serial about life in a block of flats. 2.00 *After Noon Plus*: Can the Irishness of the Irish be defined?

dish. Also, an indelible method of producing crepes Suzette. 12.20 News: with sub-titles for the deaf. 1.00 *Country*: What Price Beauty? Angela Rippon, Phil Drabble and Richard Maberly pay a visit to the King's Palace at Glenglassie Hotel in Scotland. 10.15 *Start*: A new series. George Wein, the man who created the United States Festival is interviewed by Mike Hennessey. We also hear Phyllis Newborn, the Herb Ellis Trio and Concordia.

10.45 The British in Love: Television version of Jilly Cooper's anthology (same title) of love poems and music from the 18th century. 11.30 News and weather. 11.45 *Friday Night*: Saturday Morning. Ned Sherrin's guests are Professor Sir Alfred Ayer, the ballet dancer Wayne Sleep, and Auberon Waugh. Also, quiz of the week and music from the Sisters. Ends at approximately 12.40 am.

The programme has a go, using a play about the boxer/playboy Jack Doyle as its point of departure. 2.45 Film: *The Clairvoyant* (Bricks). Old British thriller about a music hall mind-reader (Claude Rains) who really does acquire the gift, with frightening results. Fayed with Lenny. 11.22 *Leapfrog* (mads). 11.39 *Believe it or Not* (Sikhs). 11.55 *Cartoon*: The Medicine Man.

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cludes her readings from Original Folk Tales. The story of The Moon Child. 4.45 *Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle*: Cartoon. *Tarzan's Return* to the City of Gold (r). 5.10 *Grange Hill*: Part 12 of this school series. Who is stealing the building materials? 5.35 *The Peckhamers*: Short comedy, with Leonard Rossiter (r). 5.40 News: with Richard Whitmore. 5.55 *Nationwide*.

6.55 *Winter Olympics*: What's going on at Lake Placid? The opening rounds of the two-man bobsleigh event, also, speed skating and the Soviet Union v the Netherlands in ice hockey, and the United States v Czechoslovakia. 7.55 *Top of the Pops*: Simon Bates introduces the weekly pop music show. 8.30 *Breakaway*: Final episode of the first of two thriller serials by Frank Durbridge. Sam (Mark Jarvis) solves the mystery of his parents' deaths. 9.00 News: with Peter Woods. 9.15 *The Eddie Capra Mystery*: Thriller for a Dead Detective. Is there something sinister about the sudden death of Aunt Teresa's pet dog? 9.30 *Points of View*: Barry Took answers letters sent in by viewers about BBC programmes.

panions and face each other for a change. The result counts towards the overall count for the Marley Estate. The King's Palace at Glenglassie Hotel in Scotland. 10.15 *Start*: A new series. George Wein, the man who created the United States Festival is interviewed by Mike Hennessey. We also hear Phyllis Newborn, the Herb Ellis Trio and Concordia.

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Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.30, 8.30 Headlines. 8.45 *Vestday* in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 *Enquire Within*. 10.00 News. 10.05 From Our Own Correspondent. 11.00 News. 11.05 Women of Words (4). 11.30 Bird of the Week. 12.00 News. 12.05 *My Music*. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Listen With Mother. 3.15 *Play First*: Love, by Ivan Tur-

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Records: Handel, Brahms, Wieniawski. 8.00 News. 8.05 Records: Bach, Mozart, Sibelius. 9.00 News. 9.05 Cricket: India v England. 11.10 *Piano* (Lythgoe): Schubert, Brahms (Sibelius). 12.15 pm BBC Welsh SO/Taipeine (live from Cardiff), pt 1: Berlioz, Chausson. 1.00 News. 1.05 Talk in Short. 1.20 BBC Welsh SO/Taipeine (live from Cardiff), pt 2: Duparc, Debussy (La Mer). 2.10 The Arts Worldwide. 2.30 Piano: Novak, Janacek, Martini. 3.30 Violin (Perlman): Bach (Son 3.1.7). 3.55 Comparing Notes. 4.55 News. 5.00 Music for early evening. 7.00 ECO/Barenboim: Hindemith. 7.10 One Pair of Hands review. 7.25 *Play It Again*: preview. 7.30 BBC Northern SO/Herbig (live from Free Trade Hall), pt 1: Strauss. 7.55 Reading (Sparrow): Dreams in Verse. 8.15 BBCNSO, pt 2: Bruckner (Sym 8.1.4). 9.50 Story: Glendower, by Robert Nye. 10.55 Pierre Bernac: tribute. 11.55 *Play*: The Man Who Invented Yesterday. 12.00 News. 12.15-12.23 am Weather.

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.45 *St. John*. 5.50 *Wagon Wheel*. 6.00 *Collin Berry*. 6.10 *David Hamilton*. 6.20 *Ed Stewart*. 6.30 *Much More Music*. 6.40 *Wagon Wheel*. 6.50 *Much More Music*. 7.00 *John Dunn*. 7.10 *Take Your Partners*. 7.25 *Friday Night is Music Night*. 7.35 *Sports Desk*. 8.00 *Ray Castle*. 8.10 *Sounds of Love*. 8.20 *Brian Mathews*. 8.30 *Take Your Partners*. 8.45 *Friday Night is Music Night*. 8.55 *Sports Desk*. 9.00 *Ray Castle*. 9.10 *Sounds of Love*. 9.20 *Brian Mathews*. 9.30 *Take Your Partners*. 9.45 *Friday Night is Music Night*. 9.55 *Sports Desk*. 10.00 *Ray Castle*. 10.10 *Sounds of Love*. 10.20 *Brian Mathews*. 10.30 *Take Your Partners*. 10.45 *Friday Night is Music Night*. 10.55 *Sports Desk*. 11.00 *Ray Castle*. 11.10 *Sounds of Love*. 11.20 *Brian Mathews*. 11.30 *Take Your Partners*. 11.45 *Friday Night is Music Night*. 11.55 *Sports Desk*. 12.00 *Ray Castle*. 12.10 *Sounds of Love*. 12.20 *Brian Mathews*. 12.30 *Take Your Partners*. 12.45 *Friday 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